Just CrossStitch 2006 Special Christmas Issue

Christmas Ornaments

75 Favorite Designers Celebrate Christmas

10th Anniversary

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Christmas Ornaments 2006

Editor's Note
6

2006 Christmas Ornaments Collection
10

Amaryllis Artworks 30
Angel Stitchin 31
Bizzi Creations, Inc. 32
Blackbird Designs 33
Blue Ribbon Designs 35
Brightneedle 36
Brittercup Designs 37
Cat's Whiskers Design Studio, The 40
Charland Designs, Inc. 41
Charlette's Collectibles 42
Charlotte's Web Needlework 43
Cherished Stitches 44
Cindy Valentine Designs 45
Country Cottage Needleworks 46
Cross-Eyed Cricket, Inc. 47
DebBee's Designs 48
Dragon Dreams, Inc. 49
Elizabeth's Designs 50
Erica Michaels Designs 50
Fancy Work 52
Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches 53
Full Circle Designs 54
Gentle Pursuit Designs 55
Glory Bee 57
Hands to Work 58
HeartStrings/The Artists Collection 59
Homespun Elegance Ltd. 61
Imaginating, Inc. 62
JBW Designs 63
Jeannette Douglas Designs 64
Jemini Designs 65
Julia Lucas Designs 66
Kitty & Me Designs 67
Knotted Tree NeedleArt 68
La-D-Da 69
Ladybug Lane Designs 70
Little By Little Design Co. 71
Little House Needleworks 72
Lizzie*Kate, Inc. 73
Lynn's Prints 74
M Designs 75
monsterbubbles 76
Mosey 'N Me 77
Moss Creek Designs, Inc. 78
NeedlePlay Needlework Designs 79
Nordic Needle 80
Olde Colonial Designs 81
Patricia Ann Designs 82
Periwinkle Promises 83
Prairie Moon 84
Prairie Schooler, The 85
Praiseworthy Stitches 86
Raise the Roof Designs 87
Scandinavian Stitches 88
Serendipity Designs 88
Shepherd's Bush Printworks 90
Sisters and Best Friends 91
Still Stitching with Susan, LLC 92
Stitchworks, Ltd., The 93
Sue Hillis Designs, Inc. 94
Sunflower Seed, The 95
Sweetheart Tree™, The 96
Thistle Threads 96
Trail Creek Farm 97
Twisted Oaks Designs 98
Ursula Michael Designs 100
Val's Stuff 101
Vermillion Stitchery, The 102
Victoria Sampler, The 103
Water's Edge 104
Wee Works 104
Whiskey Creek Ink 105
Wild Heart Designs 106
With My Needle 106
Workbasket, The 108

Finishing Instructions
34

Twisted-Cording Instructions
34

Tassel-Making How-Tos
77

Advertiser Index
114

Where to Find It
116

Stitch Illustrations
117

2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

Christmastime has the fragrance of evergreens. For a few short weeks, the trees, wreaths, and garlands with which we decorate our homes perfume indoor environments with the scent of a magnificent forest. Certainly, the other senses have their starring moments during the season, too: the taste of sweet candy canes, the vision of twinkling lights, the touch of crinkly wrapping paper, or the sound of happy Christmas carols. But it is our sense of smell that has the power to spark a memory and take us instantly to a happy moment in our past, when we sat before a beautiful tree and contemplated the many joys with which our lives are blessed.

1. **Olde Colonial Designs**
   Christmas
2. **Praiseworthy Stitches**
   The Bird's Carol
3. **The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio**
   Oh Christmas Tree
4. **Patricia Ann Designs**
   Christmas Poinsettia
5. **Little House Needleworks**
   Pear Tree
6. **Whiskey Creek Ink**
   Christmas Tree
7. **Water's Edge**
   We Wreath You a Merry Christmas
8. **Angel Stitchin**
   Christmas Joy

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Noël
PAIX
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Joy
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2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

One has to look no further than the Christmas story itself for symbols and images that lend themselves to lovely hand-wrought ornaments: angels singing sweetly in the sky, Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem, the gifts of the magi that followed yonder star, and an infant child lying swaddled in a manger. Though finished in ways that are suited to the modern eye—as a mitten or stocking, or embellished with glittering metallic flosses or dainty bows fashioned from silk ribbon—the beauty of these ornaments springs from a joyous miracle that came to pass more than two millennia ago.

1. **Shepherd's Bush Printworks**
   Mary and Joseph
2. **Julia Lucas Designs**
   Joy
3. **Cross-Eyed Cricket, Inc.**
   "Away in a Manger" Mitten
4. **Brightneedle**
   To Thee Hope
5. **DebBee's Designs**
   First Light
6. **The Sunflower Seed**
   Silver and Gold
7. **Moss Creek Designs, Inc.**
   Tvaandsstickning: a Swedish Mitten
8. **Cindy Valentine Designs**
   Gloria

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JOY
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We Will Bring Him
Silver AND Gold
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2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

A well-known song tells us that there's no place like home for the holidays. It should come as little surprise then that many cross-stitch designers enjoy creating houses as their tribute to this beloved holiday. After all, homespun charm is what we cross-stitchers do best! These tiny tributes to the dwellings that we share with friends and family are a simple way to celebrate the comfort and solace that our homes provide for us. In a season in which we celebrate our blessings, a little hand-stitched house makes perfect sense.

1. **Prarie Moon**
   Mistletoe House
2. **Glory Bee**
   Noel 2006
3. **The Prairie Schooler**
   Winter
4. **Little By Little Design Co.**
   Winter Joy
5. **Homespun Elegance Ltd.**
   Christmas Welcome
6. **Charlotte's Web Needlework**
   For My Friends
7. **Country Cottage Needleworks**
   Winter's Eve

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NOEL
NOEL
NOEL
NOEL
2006
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joy
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ornaments which
friends are the
decorate a life
CKS to TSG
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2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

With their frosty smiles and twinkling coal eyes, these brightly clad snowmen form a playful group. Wearing top hats and stocking caps, wrapped in fluffy scarves, and bearing button stars, these frosty friends promise to add fun and frivolity to a traditional tree that perhaps takes itself a little too seriously. If you're the sort of stitcher who gets a thrill from the arrival of chilly air and fluffy snowflakes, these cold-weather characters will be right at home hanging from the branches of your Christmas tree.

1. **Sisters and Best Friends**
   Chuckles
2. **Thistle Threads**
   Let It Snow
3. **The Stitchworks, Ltd.**
   Vested Snowman
4. **Bizzi Creations**
   Enjoy the Holidays
5. **Ursula Michael Designs**
   2006 Snowman
6. **Val's Stuff**
   Be Merry
7. **Kitty & Me Designs**
   Top Hat

2
Let it Snow
4
2006
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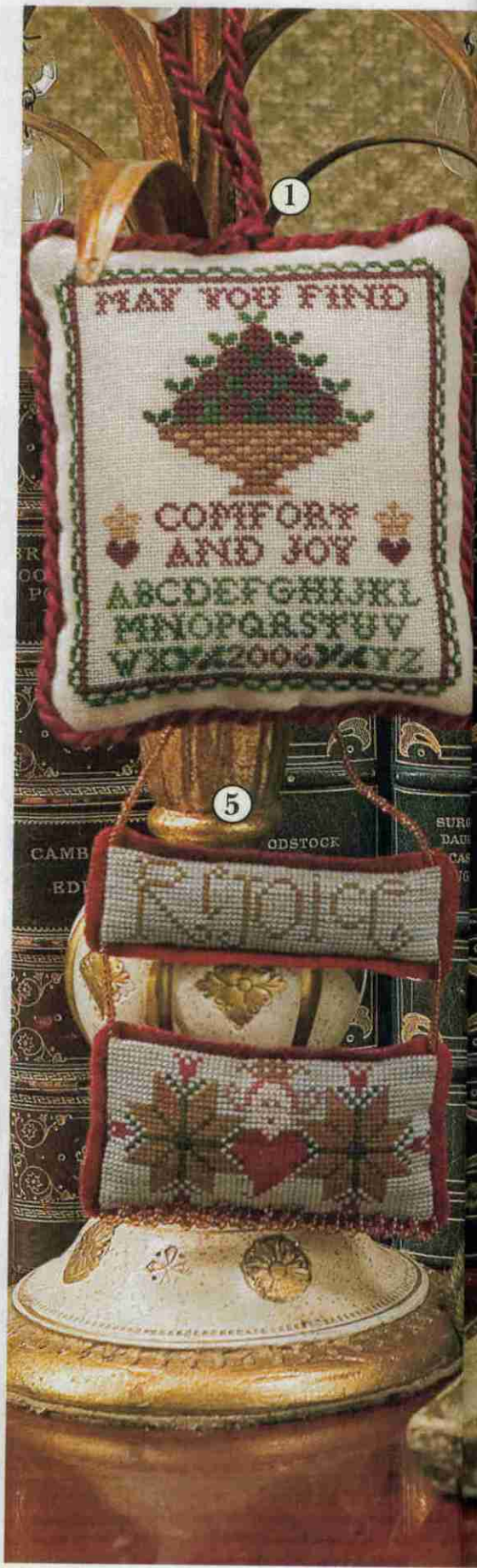
6
BE MERRY
7
2006

2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

Quaker medallions, sampler motifs, and antique alphabets allow the sampler enthusiast to express the sentiments of the season in a style that is near and dear to her heart. Though these creations can express beauty when finished simply as a traditional ornament, the ingenuity of stitchers from centuries past also lends itself to novel ornaments that can be displayed long after the Christmas tree has been taken down and decorations put away. A needle book, a scissors fob, a tiny pinkeep, and a strawberry pincushion: these practical needlework tools serve double duty as tree trimmings and stitching aides for the needlewoman whose heart is anchored firmly in an era gone by.

1. **Blue Ribbon Designs**
   A Christmas Wish
2. **Fancy Work**
   Sampler Noel
3. **With My Needle**
   Quaker Pinkeep and Scissors Fob
4. **Cherished Stitches**
   Emblem of Friendship Needle Case
5. **Hands To Work**
   Rejoice
6. **Blackbird Designs**
   Quaker Medallion Strawberry Pinkeep
7. **The Sweetheart Tree™**
   Christmas Joy Bellpull



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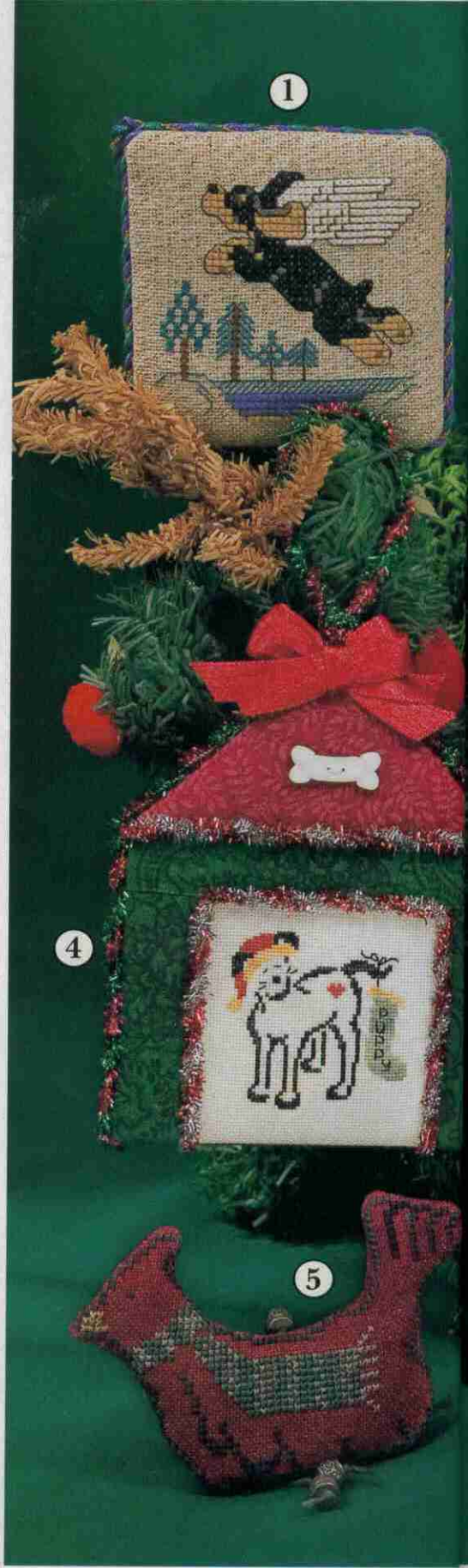
LANSDOWNE
POETS.
KEATS
Joy
2006

2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

A Christmas menagerie need not contain only reindeer—why not include all creatures great and small? When it comes to Christmas-tree ornaments, there's no limit to the type of feathery or furry friend that a needle and thread can create. Whether it's a bird in a tree, an animal from a zoo, or the trusty canine companion lying at our feet, these delightful creatures will add a playful touch to your Christmas tree.

1. **Amaryllis Artworks**
   Angel Dog
2. **Jemini Designs**
   Peppermint Nick
3. **Elizabeth's Designs**
   Christmas Chorus
4. **Brittercup Designs**
   Britty Christmas Puppy
5. **La-D-Da**
   Christmas Cardinal
6. **The Workbasket**
   Quaker Reindeer
7. **Serendipity Designs**
   Christmas Goose



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Christmas Chorus
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2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

The Christmas season is a time of wonder and delight; a time when brightly colored decorations and fanciful creations allow us to view the world around us with the excitement of a child. Clever cross-stitch designs not only capture this wonder and delight, but preserve it in fabric and floss for years to come. Gaily wrapped packages, whimsical stockings, toy nutcrackers, and—of course—cookies, candy, and yummy gingerbread men: these are the once-a-year delights that feed our souls and give us something to look forward to each year when we unpack our boxes of decorations with child-like enthusiasm and rekindle our joy with sentimental treasures from Christmases past.

1. **Lynn's Prints**
   Sharing the Bounty
2. **Trail Creek Farm**
   Stocking
3. **Charlette's Collectibles**
   Earth Angel
4. **Knotted Tree NeedleArt**
   A Merry Stocking
5. **Raise the Roof Designs**
   Arm and a Leg
6. **Twisted Oaks Designs**
   Edgar Elf
7. **M Designs**
   Visions of Sugarplums
8. **Still Stitching with Susan, LLC**
   Cookies for Mr. C

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Give
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visions of sugarplums...
cookies for MR. C
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2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

Red and green may spring quickly to mind, but the palette of Christmas colors is limited only by our imaginations. The ever-expanding colors of flosses, fibers, and fabrics that we enjoy today allow many designers to locate their inspiration in a different range of colors: the deep blue of a midnight sky in Bethlehem; the frosty blue of a snow-covered landscape; the sandy yellow of Christmas in a dessert terrain; the pinkish hue of an advent candle or Christmas rose; the royal purple of the King of Kings. This year, break free from tradition and decorate your tree with the colors of your heart!

1. **Erica Michaels Designs**
   Lights of Advent
2. **Gentle Pursuit Designs**
   Lion & Lamb Ornament
3. **The Victoria Sampler**
   Victorian Rose Snowflake
4. **monsterbubbles**
   Feliz Navidad
5. **Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches**
   Anniversary Stars
6. **Scandinavian Stitches**
   Snowflake Cone Ornament
7. **Charland Designs, Inc.**
   Believe
8. **Jeannette Douglas Designs**
   Hope Christmas Ornament

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love
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hope
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2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

There is beauty in simplicity. No one knows this truth better than the needleworker. Equipped with a small piece of fabric and two or three shades of floss, the patient needleworker creates little objects that delight and decorate just by passing her needle in and out of the threads of her fabric with precision and skill. Pretty patterns emerge: bells and birds; flowers, leaves, and stars. Their beauty lies not only in the depiction of simple objects that please us, but also in the knowledge that the work of our hands expresses the love in our hearts and the joys of the season.

1. **Lizzie*Kate, Inc.**
   Happy Holidays
2. **Wee Works**
   Christmas Bauble
3. **Wild Heart Designs**
   Snowflake Heart
4. **JBW Designs**
   Peace on Earth
5. **Periwinkle Promises**
   Noel
6. **Sue Hillis Designs, Inc.**
   Cross-Stitch Christmas
7. **NeedlePlay Needlework Designs**
   A Star is Born
8. **Nordic Needle**
   Hardanger Snowflake

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NOEL
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2006

Christmas Ornaments Collection

The evening of December 24 belongs to Santa Claus. A mascot of merriness and the chaplain of good cheer, good old Saint Nick comes sailing in on his sleigh once a year to coax out the child in all of us. His appearance may differ depending on the person he's visiting, but a few things never change: the twinkle in his eye, the kind smile on his face, and the joy in his heart. Worked in soft cotton flosses and adorned with buttons and bows, these cross-stitched Santas will enable the jolly old soul to park his sleigh and linger at your Christmas tree for just a little while longer.

1. **Ladybug Lane Designs**
   Santa's Surprise
2. **Full Circle Designs**
   Moonlit Joy Ride
3. **Imaginating, Inc.**
   St. Nick
4. **Mosey 'N Me**
   Facing the 25th
5. **The Vermillion Stitchery**
   2006 Santa
6. **Dragon Dreams, Inc.**
   Santa's Unexpected Gift
9. **HeartStrings/ The Artists Collection**
   "Merry" Santa

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MERRY

Amaryllis Artworks

Denise Harrington Pratt

Greetings to all! This year, I have done something a bit different. I hope you are pleasantly surprised. No flower this year; instead, I offer you my "Angel Dog." The angel dog on the ornament is Natalie, the little black-and-tan Cocker Spaniel shown with me in my picture all these years. In February, Natalie passed away. I woke up one morning knowing what my ornament would be.

This is Natalie's story. Though it's not a Christmas story per se, it is a story of love. Natalie came into my life ten years ago. She was three at the time. She was not in the best of shape; but she was the sweetest little dog one could ever hope to meet. She instantly became devoted to me and I to her. With good food, lots of time outdoors, a good vet, but mostly lots of love, Natalie soon was a happy, healthy girl. I took her everywhere with me. She followed me like my shadow. She was happy as soon as she was where I was. At home, she always had to be in the same room with me. She wasn't demanding; she just wanted to be close. She loved to go places, too, especially those places where she could get a cookie, like the bank and the library.

Natalie was a joy and a blessing to me. She made me laugh with her exuberant greetings. I learned a lot about love and devotion from Natalie, and she reminded me about what is important. In this day and age, we are so inundated with messages telling us that we are not enough; but for a little dog that loves you, you are enough. That dog loves you unconditionally just because you are you. Maybe dogs are here to remind us that there is nothing to prove, we don't have to be other than what we are, that we are all special, and that the most important thing in this imperfect world is love. I know I am a better person for having shared these ten years with Natalie.

I hope you enjoy this ornament of my Natalie, my little angel dog flying above the woods and lakes of Maine. Thank you, Natalie, for all you taught me. I miss you and love you always.

ANGEL DOG

Designed by Denise Harrington Pratt of Amaryllis Artworks

	DMC®	Anchor®	
✷	792	177	cornflower, dk.
X	645	273	beaver gray, vy. dk.
B	898	360	coffee brown, vy. dk.
a	3828	373	hazelnut brown
■	310	403	black

	Caron Collection Waterlilies®	
•	078	pearl
@	083	pine forest
/	083	pine forest (half cross stitch)

Fabric: One 6" x 6" piece 28-count mushroom/gold Zweigart® Lugana® from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 35H x 38W
Design size: $2^{1}/_{2}$" x $2^{3}/_{4}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work half cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work straight stitch over four threads for dog's brow where gray line appears, using two strands 645/273.

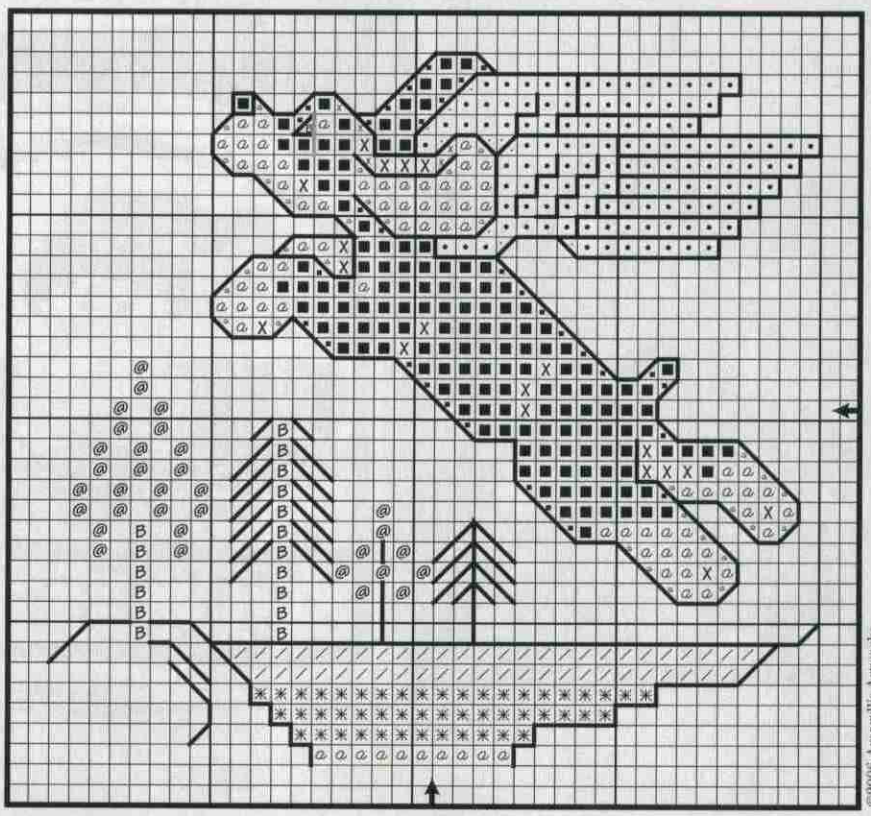
Backstitch instructions:

310	403	dog's body, nose, eyes
645	273	wings
898	360	small trees' trunks
792	177	top edge of lake
083		pine boughs (two strands), landscape

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament-finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using Anchor® 177 six-strand embroidery floss, Caron Collection 083 Waterlilies®, and Kreinik® 221 Very Fine Braid #4. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34.

Amaryllis Artworks
174 Mountain Road
Raymond, ME 04071
e-mail: *dcpratt@maine.rr.com*

(Photo is on page 20. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



©2006 Amaryllis Artworks

Angel Dog

Angel Stitchin

Jan Fate

These bars are great for Christmas!

Fudge-Filled P-Nut Butter Bars

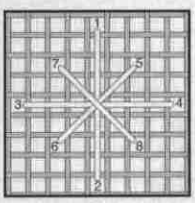
1 (18.25-oz.) yellow cake mix
1 c. creamy peanut butter
2 eggs
1/2 c. melted butter
1 c. chocolate chips
1 1/3 c. sweetened condensed milk
2 Tbsp. butter
1 (16-oz.) pkg. coconut-pecan frosting

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a large bowl, combine cake mix, peanut butter, eggs, and 1/2 c. butter. Stir by hand until all is blended and dough sticks together. Set aside 2/3 of the dough. Press the remaining 1/3 of dough in a 9"x13" glass baking dish.

In the top of a double boiler over simmering water, combine chocolate chips, milk, and 2 Tbsp. butter. Melt, but do not boil. Remove from heat and add frosting mix quickly. Spread over dough mixture in pan. Crumble remaining dough over the top.

Bake for 20–25 minutes. Cool bars and cut.



Star Stitch
(Over Eight)

(Photo is on page 11. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

CHRISTMAS JOY

Designed by Jan Fate
of Angel Stitchin

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss
○ 2220 snowflake
■ 1279 mascara

The Gentle Art
Sampler Theads™
@ 0120 pine
♥ 0330 cherry wine

Crescent Colours
Hand-Dyed Floss
X jolly holly
◐ roasted chestnut

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 28-count lambswool linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 61H x 54W
Design size: 4 3/8" x 3 7/8"

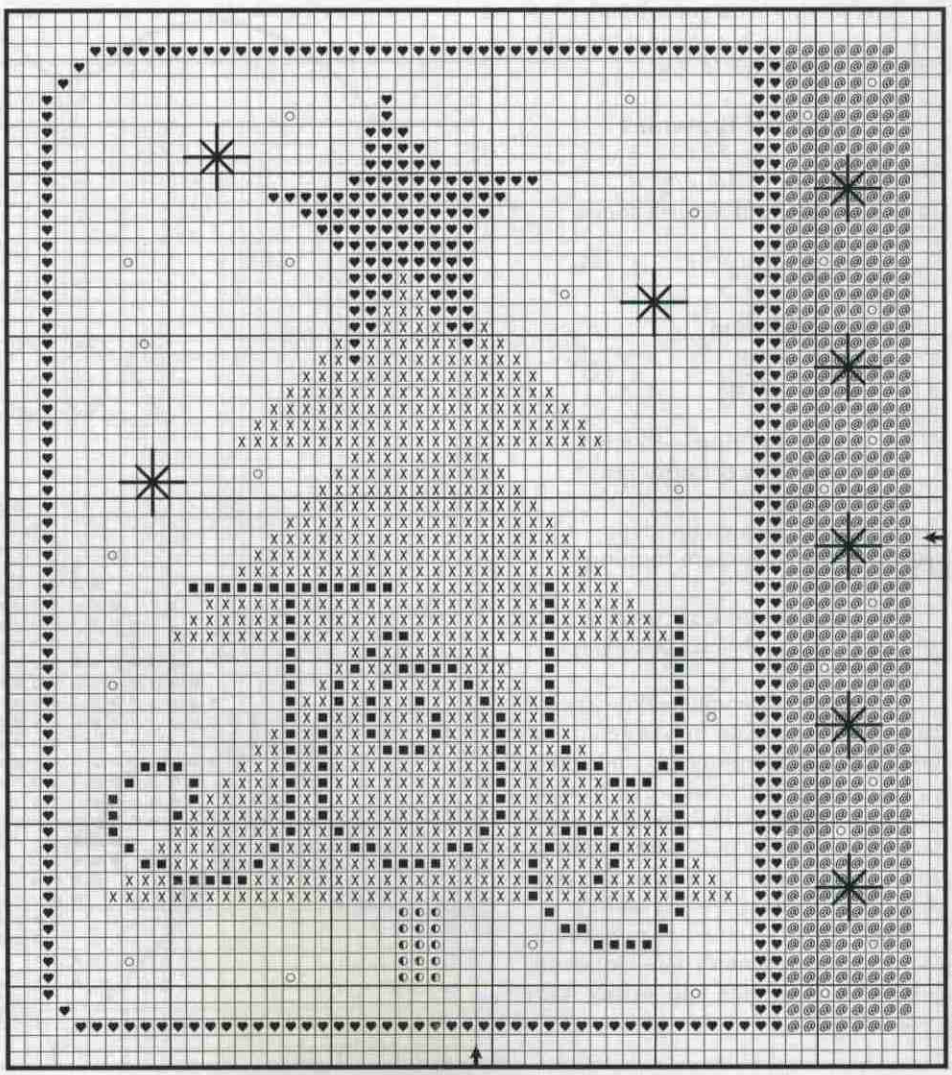
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work star stitch over eight threads, using two strands 2220.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. If desired, frame stitched piece with strips of coordinating fabric. Trim was purchased.

Stitched by Chris McLaughlin
Finished by Pat Siltman

Angel Stitchin
Post Office Box 345
Irving, IL 62051
e-mail: *angelstitchin@aol.com*
Web site: *www.angelstitchin.com*



Christmas Joy

©2006 Angel Stitchin

Bizzi Creations, Inc.

Paula Munter

Above is a photo of me when I was about three-years-old. I am holding my grandparents' "farm" cat and building a snow replica of my family. I always have a good time in the snow and, as you can see, a creative time as well.

After playing in the snow, I enjoy coming in and eating hot caramel brownies right out of the oven. Enjoy!

Caramel Brownies

1 1/3 c. all-purpose flour
3/4 c. unsweetened natural cocoa powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
3/4 c. butter, softened
1 1/2 c. brown sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 eggs
1 2/3 c. Nestle® Toll House Swirled Milk Chocolate & Carmel morsels, divided
1 c. chopped pecans, divided
1/4 c. caramel ice-cream topping

Preheat oven to 325°. Spray a 9" x 13" pan with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.

In a small bowl, combine flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt. In a large mixing bowl, beat butter, brown sugar, and vanilla extract until creamy. Add eggs, beating well. Gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture. Stir in 3/4 c. swirled morsels and 1/2 c. chopped nuts. Spread into pan. Sprinkle remaining morsels on top.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Add remaining nuts and drizzle with caramel sauce.

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS

Designed by Paula Munter
of Bizzi Creations, Inc.

Needlepoint Inc. Silk®	DMC®	
■ 454	552	violet, dk.
@ 452	553	violet, lt.
X 451	209	violet, med. lt.

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #8		
• 032		pearl

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 20-count blue wave linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 44H x 39W
Design size: 4 1/2" x 4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using four strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

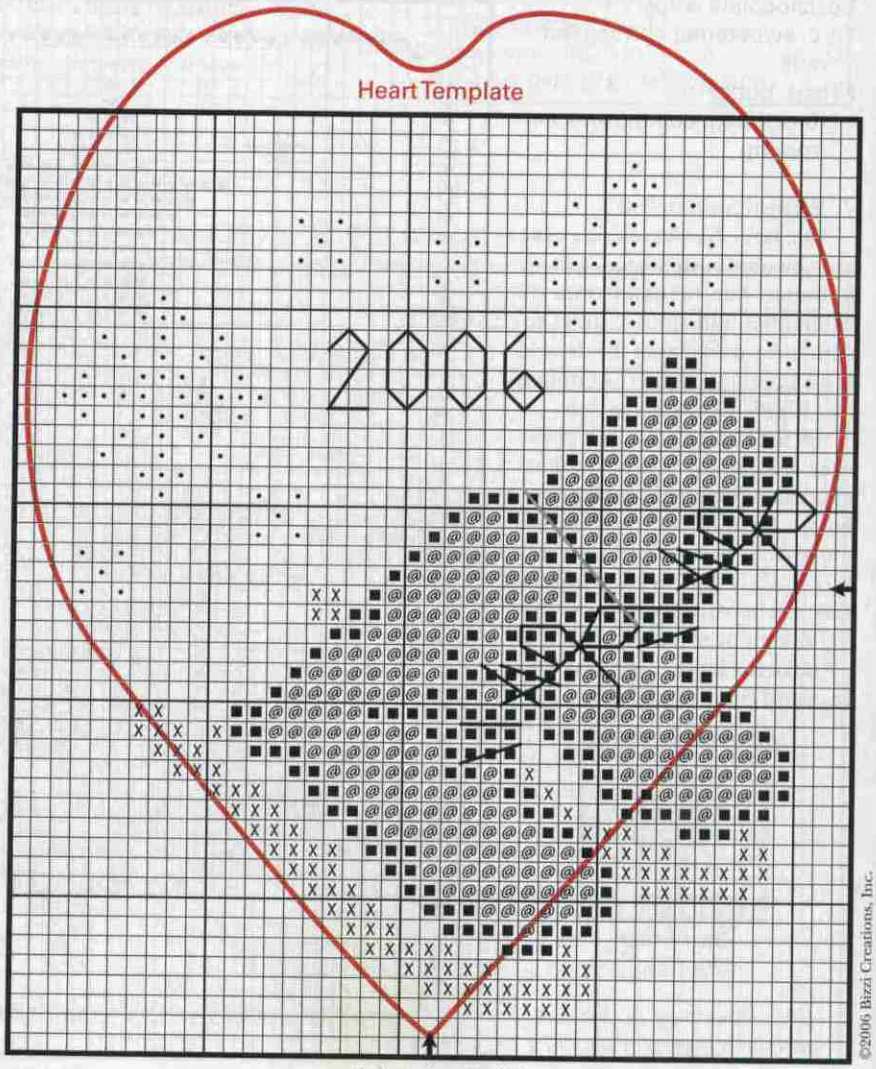
Backstitch instructions:

454	552	date
451	209	top edge of skate in foreground (gray line)
032		laces

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament-finishing instructions on page 34. Use template below to create ornament shape. Backing was made using Weeks Dye Works™ 2337 periwinkle wool. Cording and tassel were purchased.

(Photo is on page 17.)

Bizzi Creations, Inc.
1233 Covina Court
Allen, TX 75013
email: *bizzicreations@att.net*
Web site: *www.bizzicreations.com*



Enjoy the Holidays

©2006 Bizzi Creations, Inc.

Blackbird Designs

Barb Adams and Alma Allen

The cooking publications in the grocery aisle always capture my attention. I wait for my turn to check out, without anything else to do but look at pictures of beautiful food. I'll admit, I'm a sucker for them.

Last November, the *Holiday Cookies Collection* by Land-O-Lakes captured my attention. I thought Thanksgiving and Christmas would definitely sparkle with a table loaded with plates of cookies. I flipped through the magazine quickly and decided to make every cookie contained in those 92 pages. It wasn't like I had anything else to do, right?

Once I got home, I decided to begin at the beginning of the magazine and bake each one. I conducted this new cooking adventure as an experiment and had everyone in my family write their opinions in the margins of the magazine. The first cookie got two thumbs up by all. Did I complete this project? No, I only made 14 recipes from this magazine—maybe the rest can be baked next year. For Thanksgiving, I had three different cookies on the table for dessert. My youngest son looked at the Thanksgiving table and told me, "Mom, this is the best Thanksgiving ever." Did my family enjoy the experiment? Yes, and they enjoyed thinking up clever remarks to add in the margins of the magazine. Did making these cookies add sweetness to my life? I would have to say yes, plus several extra pounds. I wonder what adventure I'll find in the check-out line this next holiday season? Hopefully it will have something to do with weight-loss!

QUAKER MEDALLION STRAWBERRY PINKEEP

Designed by Barb Adams and Alma Allen of Blackbird Designs

The Gentle Art
Simply Shaker Sampler Threads
- 7008 rhubarb

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 30-count LaCrosse blend linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 68H x 68W
Design size: $4^5/_8$" x $4^5/_8$"

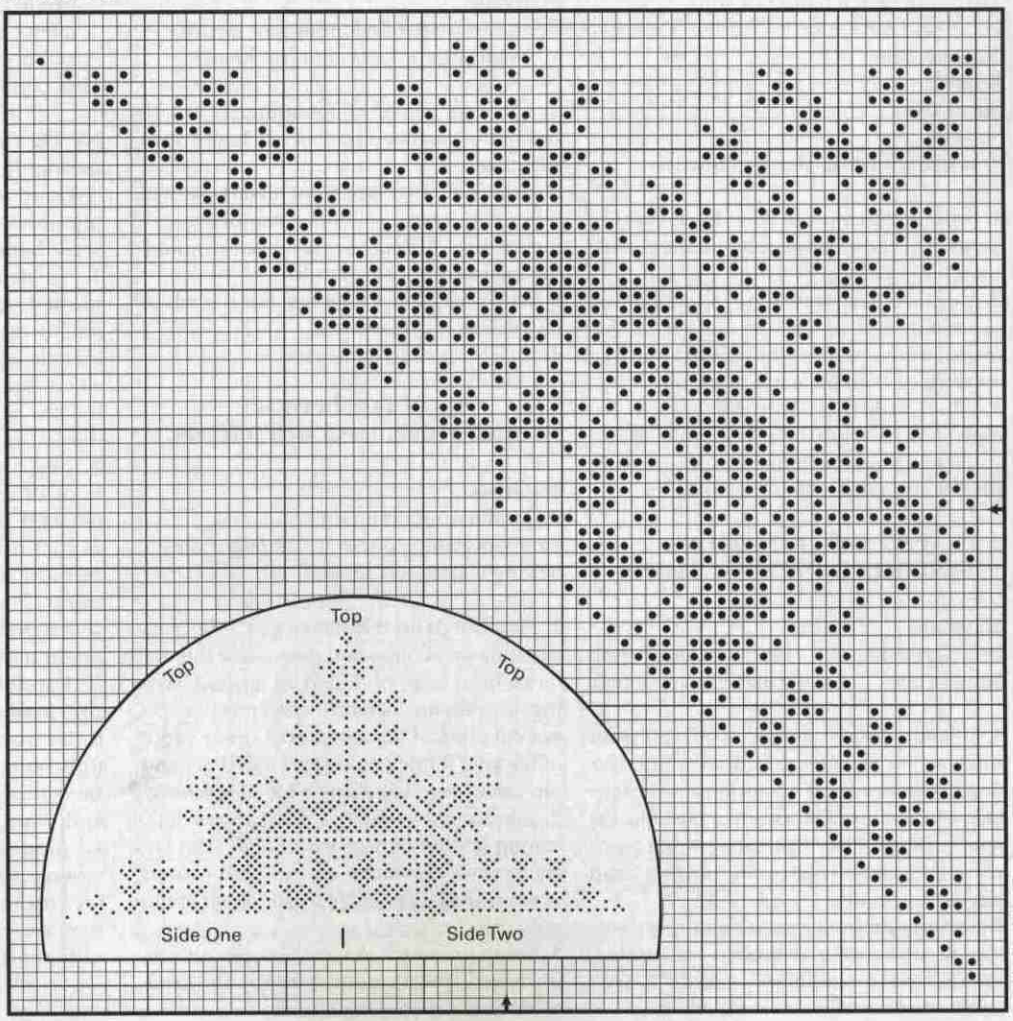
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing materials and instructions:
Lightweight green decorator fabric
8" x 8" piece fusible interfacing
$2^1/_2$" circle scrap fabric or interfacing
9"-diameter paper plate
3 yds. green wool yarn
Sewing thread
Sand or emery grains
18" length (24-gauge) wire
Ruler
Pencil
Fabric glue
Sewing machine (optional)

Fuse interfacing to wrong side of stitched piece. Using a ruler and pencil, measure $^1/_2$" from stitching on "top" side of stitching and draw a line. Place plate atop stitched piece. Referring to illustration below and tracing along edge of plate, draw an arc connecting top corner to top corner. (**NOTE:** Line should never come closer than $^1/_2$" to stitching.) Cut out stitched piece along drawn lines.

Match "side" edges of strawberry along stitching, right sides together; stitched edges should abut but not overlap. Using sewing machine, sew sides together. Remove pins and trim side seam allowances to $^1/_4$". Trim along curved line to remove excess fabric from top.

Run a gathering stitch approximately $^1/_2$" from top edge of strawberry. Pull ends



Quaker Medallion Strawberry Pinkeep

©2006 Blackbird Designs

of gathering stitch to loosely draw in top edge of strawberry. Fill with sand or emery grains and tuck 2 1/2" fabric circle inside top of strawberry to prevent sand loss. Pull gathering stitches to tighten and tie off, leaving a small opening for hanger.

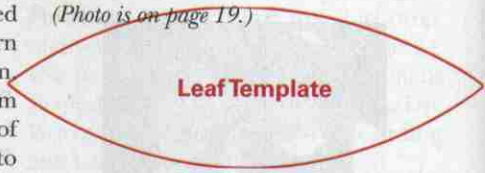
Using leaf template, cut out ten leaves from decorator fabric. Cut wire into five 3 1/2" pieces. Cover wrong side of two leaves lightly with glue. Beginning 1/4" from pointed end of one leaf, place one length of wire atop glue side, allowing wire to extend past pointed tip of opposite end. Place remaining glue-covered leaf over wired leaf, glue-side down. Allow to dry. Repeat process four more times to create a total of five leaves. Trim edges to remove frayed threads.

When dry, twist wire ends of leaves tightly together to form strawberry's cap. Trim wire stump to 1/4" and glue together. Allow to dry.

Divide yarn into three 36" pieces. Referring to twisted cording instructions on page 34, make two pieces of twisted cording: one using one length of yarn and a second using two lengths of yarn. Fold thicker length of floss in half to form hanger. Insert ends into opening at top of strawberry. Press wire ends of leaves into opening. Make multiple tacking stitches to sew opening closed and to secure leaves and hanger to strawberry. Apply a layer of glue to top-center of strawberry to secure further.

Fashion the remaining length of cording into a series of loops, securing at center point with several wraps of yarn before attaching to top of strawberry with several tacking stitches.

(Photo is on page 19.)



Blackbird Designs
11065 West 175th Street
Olanthe, KS 66062
e-mail: *dma@sound.net*
Web site: *www.blackbird-designs.com*

GENERAL FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:
Cording or trim (**NOTE:** See Step 2 to determine length.)
Backing fabric to complement cross stitch
Thread to match fabrics or trim
Hand-sewing needle
Tape measure
Ruler
Steam iron
Scissors
Transparent fabric glue (optional)

1. Press stitched piece from back. **NOTE:** Some threads cannot be ironed with steam.
2. Measure circumference of finished ornament and add 8" for hanger to this measurement to determine the length of cording or trim for each ornament.
3. When attaching cording, secure cut ends with stitches or fabric glue. Blind stitch cording to ornament, using sewing thread and concealing cut ends.

PILLOW-ORNAMENT FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:
Polyester stuffing Fabric-marking pencil
Straight pins Sewing machine (optional)

1. Measure desired distance (1/8"–1") from stitching on all sides and draw a line this distance from edge of design all around, staying on grain-line of fabric when possible. Do **not** cut fabric. Place ornament over a piece of backing fabric (right sides together) and pin layers together.
2. Sew around ornament along drawn line, leaving an opening at bottom for turning. Trim all layers to seam allowances of 1/4". Trim corners to seam allowances of 1/8".
3. Turn ornament to right side, fill with polyester stuffing, and sew opening closed.
4. Attach trim and hanger.

ORNAMENT FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:
Self-adhesive padded mounting board
Hot-glue gun or craft glue (optional)

1. Cut two pieces of mounting board to desired ornament size (1/8"–1" larger than stitching).
2. Center stitched ornament on one piece of mounting board, following manufacturer's instructions. Repeat on other piece of mounting board for backing fabric.
3. With wrong sides together, blind stitch or glue backing to ornament.
4. Attach trim and hanger.

FLAT-ORNAMENT FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:
Padded mounting board
Fabric-marking pencil Straight pins
Sewing machine (optional)

1. Measure desired distance (1/8"–1") from stitching on all sides and draw a line this distance from edge of design all around, staying on grain-line of fabric when possible. Do **not** cut fabric. Place ornament over a piece of backing fabric (right sides together) and pin layers together along edge of stitching.
2. Sew around ornament along drawn line, leaving bottom of ornament open. Trim layers to seam allowances of 1/4". Trim corners to seam allowances of 1/8". Turn ornament to right side.
3. Using ornament as a pattern, cut mounting board. Insert mounting board into ornament and sew opening closed.
4. Attach trim and hanger.

TWISTED-CORDING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:
Embroidery floss, coton perlé, or other fiber to complement stitchery (**NOTE:** To determine amount needed, see Step 1. Refer to ornament color code for specific color and fiber used.)
Mini cording drill

NOTE: Cording can be made by one person; however, the procedure can be awkward at times, especially when dealing with long lengths of floss—an extra set of hands is always helpful.
1. To determine the amount of floss needed, multiply by three the desired length of the cording, making sure to include any length needed for hangers when finishing ornaments. Place all lengths of floss together and tie a knot in each end.
2. Slip one knotted end of floss onto hook of cording drill. Slip other knotted end over a small knob. Pull drill so that floss is taut. Operate drill in a forward direction. Floss will begin to twist. Continue twisting until floss is very tightly twisted and is about to twist up on itself.
3. Carefully remove knotted end from drill hook, being extremely careful not to let go of end and keeping twisted floss taut. Place hook of cording drill in center of length of twisted floss and place knotted end on knob, still keeping floss taut. Operate drill in a reverse direction until desired twist for cording is achieved. Remove drill. Remove ends from knob and secure with another knot.

Blue Ribbon Designs

Belinda Karls-Nace

A CHRISTMAS WISH

Designed by Belinda Karls-Nace
of Blue Ribbon Designs

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

@	0510	cinnamon
○	0410	tarnished gold

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

■	3860	crimson
X	2159	seaweed

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 32-count latte country French linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 59H x 53W
Design size: $3^{2}/_{8}$" x $3^{3}/_{8}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear, using one strand of floss.

Finishing instructions:

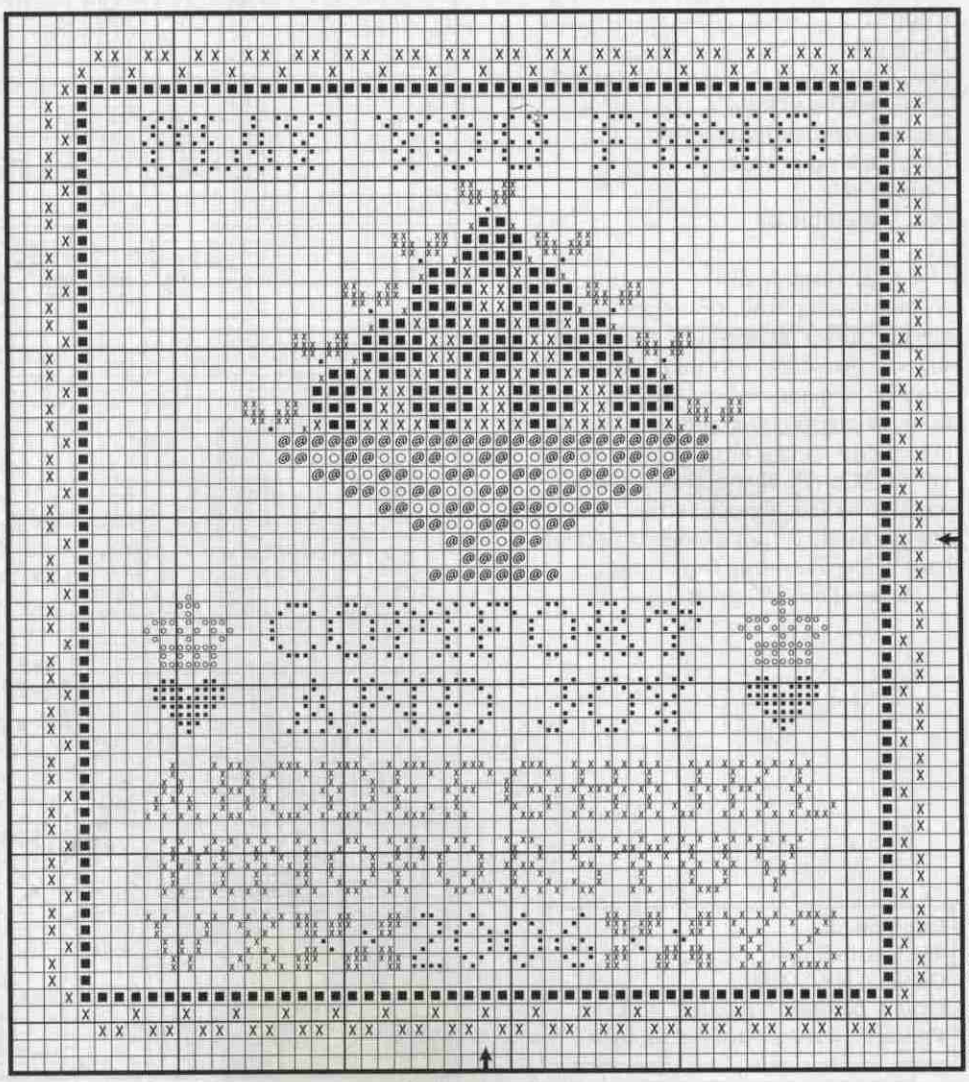
Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Backing was made using Weeks Dye Works™ 1333 Lancaster Red wool. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using DMC® 902 six-strand embroidery floss. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34.

(Photo is on page 18.)

Blue Ribbon Designs
413 29th Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265
e-mail: *designer@blueribbondesigns.com*
Web site: *www.blueribbondesigns.com*

When I think about the holidays of my childhood, I have very fond memories. My sister and I would wake at the crack of dawn and tiptoe into the living room to see if Santa had visited us yet. I am sure that our parents had just gone to bed after wrapping the gifts and putting together the doll house or tricycle. Once we saw Santa had arrived, we would race into our parents' room, filled with glee, shouting, "Santa's been here! Santa's been here!" Our parents, half asleep, would mumble, "You can have your Christmas stockings, as long as you can keep quiet until morning."

We would then race to our stockings and begin to pull them apart. There was always an adorable stuffed animal holding a candy cane peeking out of the top of the stocking and an orange in the toe. In between, the stocking was filled with tiny wrapped packages (my mother wrapped them all). Of course, these tiny packages were items designed specifically to keep us "busy" until normal waking hours. We would tear the paper off all the tiny gifts, which would include such childhood toys as a yo-yo, jacks, pick-up sticks, bubble stuff, miniature puzzles, card games, paper dolls, and marbles. These items would keep us busy for hours as our parents got that much needed sleep. As we got older, opening the Christmas stocking was always my favorite—everything was still wrapped, only the gifts changed to toothbrushes, lip gloss, and deodorant. To this day, I absolutely love opening small packages!



A Christmas Wish

©2006 Blue Ribbon Designs

Brightneedle

Ann Petit and Liz Knudsen

Here is one of our favorite Christmas recipes for easy Italian cookies. Makes a ton! Happy holidays!

Italian Christmas Cookies

6 eggs
1 c. sugar
1/2 c. shortening, melted and cooled
1 tsp. vanilla extract
5 c. all-purpose flour, sifted
6 tsp. baking powder
1 pinch salt
1/2 c. vegetable oil

Preheat oven to 375°.

In a mixing bowl, beat eggs with an electric mixer at medium speed; add sugar, shortening, and vanilla extract. In a separate medium bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Add dry ingredients to egg mixture, alternating with oil. Mix well. Shape into 1" balls. Bake on ungreased cookie sheets for 6–7 minutes per batch. Do not let cookies become hard before removing from oven.

Makes about 150 cookies.

Brightneedle
457 Castle Street
Geneva, NY 14456
e-mail: *pettitam@fltg.net*
Web site: www.brightneedle.com

TO THEE HOPE

Designed by Ann Petit and Liz Knudsen of Brightneedle

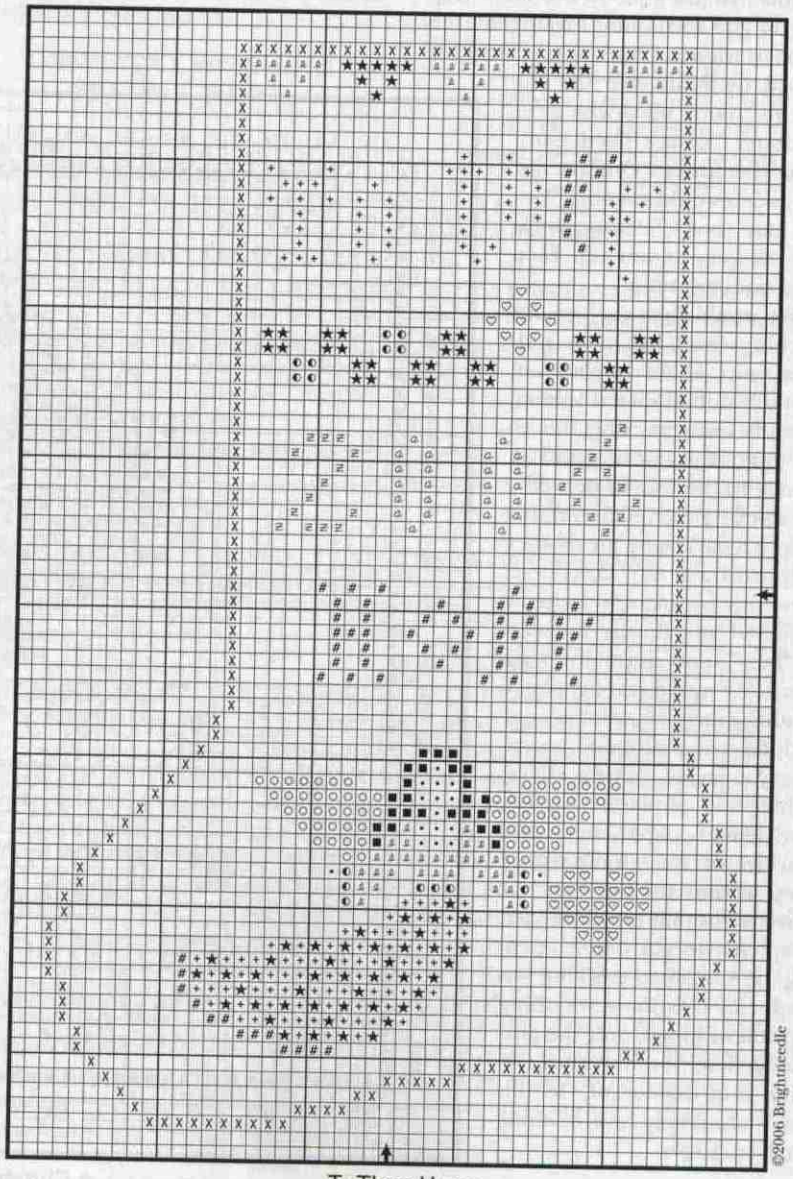
	DMC®	Anchor®	
★	169	850	pewter, lt.
◐	318	235	steel gray, lt.
+	372	887	mustard, lt.
♡	407	914	desert sand, dk.
#	452	232	shell gray, med.
a	524	858	fern green, vy. lt.
ℓ	927	849	gray-green, lt.
X	3013	853	khaki-green, lt.
○	3046	887	yellow-beige, med.
≠	3053	843	green-gray
.	3774	778	desert sand, vy. lt.
■	3863	378	mocha beige, med.

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 32-count magnolia linen from Lakeside Linens
Stitch count: 73H x 47W
Design size: $2^3/_8$" x $1^1/_2$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim was made using 927/849. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34. Hanger was made using 4mm-wide silk ribbon.

(Photo is on page 13.)



©2006 Brightneedle

To Thee Hope

Brittercup Designs

Michelle M. Lash

Where has the year gone? Just when cleanup is done, it seems like we are decorating for Christmas all over again! It is always fun to unpack our stitched Christmas ornaments and reminisce about when we stitched each one. Since we gave the cat lovers "Britty Christmas Kitty" last year, we feel it is only fair to give the dog lovers their "Britty Christmas Puppy" this year! Hope you enjoy this year's ornament as much as last year's.

Plain and Simple Potato Salad

8 medium potatoes
1½ c. mayonnaise
1 Tbsp. cider vinegar
1 Tbsp. prepared yellow mustard
1½ Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. ground black pepper
4 hard-boiled eggs, chopped
½ c. sweet onions, chopped

Wash potatoes, leaving skins on. Bring a pot of water to boil. Add potatoes. Cover and return to boil; reduce heat. Boil for 30–35 minutes, or until tender. Drain; let cool.

In a plastic or glass bowl, combine mayonnaise, vinegar, mustard, sugar, salt, and pepper. Mix until smooth. Peel cooked potatoes and cut into approximately 1" cubes. Add potatoes to mayonnaise mixture and toss to coat. Stir in eggs and onions. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours.

(Photo is on page 20.)

Brittercup Designs
3788 Clermont Avenue
North Lawrence, OH 44666
e-mail: *michelle@brittercupdesigns.com*
Web site: *www.brittercupdesigns.com*

BRITTY CHRISTMAS PUPPY

Designed by Michelle M. Lash
of Brittercup Designs

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

X 0150 evergreen
• 0470 buttercrunch
■ 1050 soot
@ 7019 pomegranate

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 28-count Queen Anne's Lace Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 52H x 53W
Design size: 1⅞" x 2"

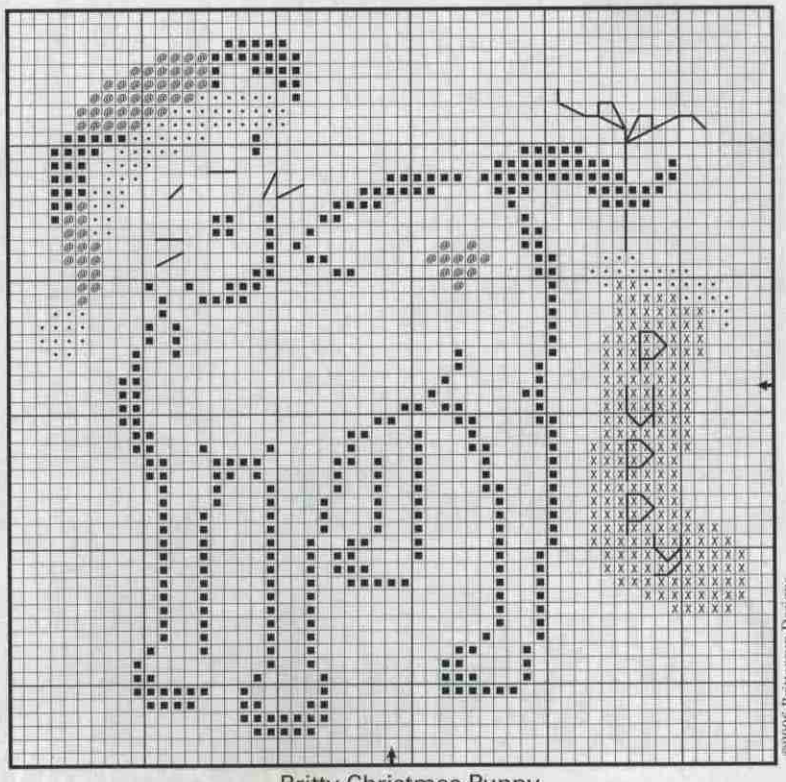
Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over one thread, using one strand 1050.

Finishing materials and instructions:
Two 3" x 1¼" pieces green fabric
4½" x 1¼" piece green fabric
4½" x 4½" piece red fabric, divided in half on the diagonal
Just Another Button Company™ 4538 doggy bone button
10 metallic pipe cleaners in red (5), green (3), and silver (2)
10" length ¼"-diameter satin ribbon

Trim stitched piece to ⅝" from stitching. With right sides together and using a ¼" seam allowance, sew one 3" x 1¼" piece of fabric to left side of stitched piece. Repeat for right side of stitched piece. Press seam allowances away from stitched piece. Align long side of one red-fabric triangle with top edge of stitched piece, right sides together. Sew together, using a ¼" seam allowance. Press seam allowance away from stitched piece. Trim away any excess fabric. Center and sew button inside red triangle, using matching floss or thread.

Referring to ornament finishing instructions on page 34, join front of ornament to backing. Twist pipe cleaners together to create three twisted red-and-green pairs and two red-and-silver pairs. Glue one red-and-silver pair in place over where red and green fabrics meet; glue second set around sides and top of stitched piece. For ornament's hanger, create a loop from one red-and-green pipe cleaner pair and position ends between layers at top of ornament; glue in place. Glue remaining red-and-green pairs to sides of ornament, securing ends between layers. Tie ribbon into a bow and tack in place where hanger adjoins ornament.



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Britty Christmas Puppy

The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio

Janie Hubble

Christmas celebrations in our house normally start with our traditional family picnic in Kings Park in the evening of Christmas Eve. As December heralds the beginning of summer here in Perth, Western Australia, it is often warm and balmy over Christmas and New Year, just perfect for an outside gathering.

This tradition started when our two children were very small. To ensure that they didn't get up too early on Christmas Day, my husband, Frank, and I devised a cunning plan—we would take them to the national park overlooking the city for an evening picnic of fish and chips, watch as the city lights turned on in the dusk, then head into the café strip of Leederville for chocolate ice creams, and coffee for the grown-ups. We would arrive home late in the evening with two very tired, but happy, little children.

Over the years, various family members and good friends have shared our Christmas Eve tradition; and even though our two children have grown up now, it is still a very important part of our Christmas calendar that they never miss.

My family and I wish you a wonderful Christmas and New Year with family and friends you cherish.

OH CHRISTMAS TREE

Designed by Janie Hubble
of The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count antique white Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 55H x 54W
Design size: $3^1/_2$" x $3^3/_8$"

DMC®	Anchor®	
■ 500	683	blue-green, vy. dk.
X 326	59	rose, vy. dk.
○ [680	901	old gold, dk.
[002HL Kreinik® BF		gold

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

002	gold

Kreinik® Blending Filament

002HL	gold

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads

● 40557	gold

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Attach beads, using one strand 680/901 and a half cross stitch.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Special instructions:

Area 1—Work diamond-eyelet stitch over ten threads, using one strand of blending filament and pulling each leg slightly to create an opening in center of stitch. Couch down vertical and horizontal legs of stitch where indicated by small lines on chart, using one strand of blending filament.

Area 2—Work ray-stitch variation, using one strand 500/683.

Area 4—Work diamond-eyelet stitch over six threads, using one strand 680/901 and one strand blending filament and pulling each leg to open hole in center of stitch.

Area 6—Work satin stitch, using two strands 326/59.

Area 7—Work two horizontal long stitches, using one strand of very fine braid 002. Work backstitch over four threads to couch down long stitches, using two strands 500/683 for green lines and two strands 326/59 for red lines.

Area 9—Work half diamond-eyelet stitch, using one strand 680/901 and one strand 002HL and pulling each leg to open hole in center of stitch.

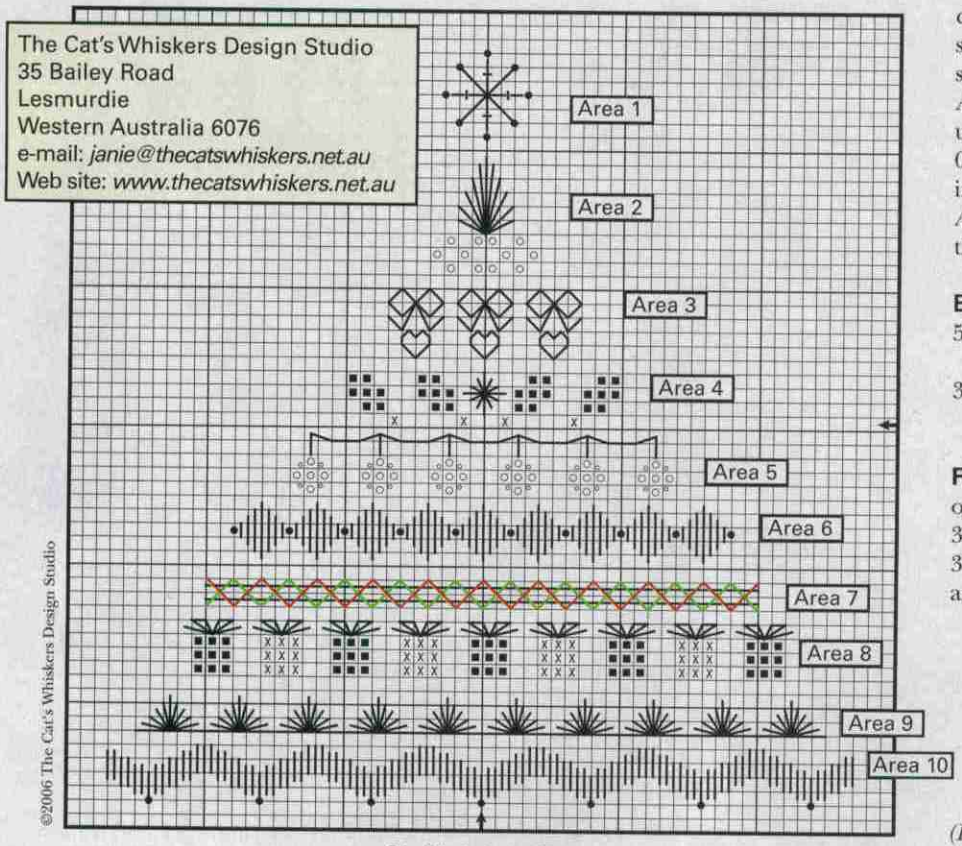
Area 10—Work satin stitch over four threads, using two strands 500/683.

Backstitch instructions:

500	683	Area 3 ribbons, Area 5, Area 8 red packages
326	59	Area 3 hearts, Area 8 green packages

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted cording was made using 326/59. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio
35 Bailey Road
Lesmurdie
Western Australia 6076
e-mail: *janie@thecatswhiskers.net.au*
Web site: *www.thecatswhiskers.net.au*



©2006 The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio

Oh Christmas Tree

(Photo is on page 10. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

Charland Designs, Inc.

Charland Garvin

Believe . . . with all your heart and soul! There is something very special about a child's belief in all the magic and wonder of Christmas. It's a complete and utter conviction that reindeer really can fly and that Santa really will come, filling stockings with a multitude of goodies.

Last year, shortly before Christmas, our granddaughter lost her beloved Chip (one of those small, stuffed collectibles) after visiting Grammy's one weekend. Chip happened to be a black, white, and tan colored cat. Savannah was distraught and shed many tears over his disappearance. Chip had been hers almost from the day of her birth.

Her father asked Sydney (Savannah's aunt and a collector) if Sydney thought she might have a Chip in her collection. Sure enough, Aunt Sydney had one, in pristine condition with tag, whiskers, and all. And you'll never guess what happened—Chip returned to Savannah. Christmas morning, Savannah came over, her eyes dancing and words tumbling out about Chip's miraculous return. He had been placed at the bottom of her stocking with the following note attached:

Dear Savannah,

Chip was found on the subway and given to one of the elves. The elves cleaned him up at the workshop. We gave him new tags, some new whiskers, and put extra beads in his belly. Keep a careful eye on him. He is a curious little cat and tends to wander.

Santa

So, my wish this Christmas is for all of you to recapture that childlike belief in the wonder and magic of Christmas. Believe with all your heart and soul!

Charland Designs, Inc.
244 Highland Avenue
Fort Erie, ON L2A 2X7
Canada
e-mail: *sydney@charlanddesigns.com*
Web site: *www.charlanddesigns.com*

BELIEVE

Designed by Charland Garvin of Charland Designs, Inc.

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

■	1284	cadet

DMC® Anchor®

	647 1040	beaver gray, med.
○	blanc 2	white
	032 Kreinik® BF	pearl

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count raw Zweigart® Cashel® linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 47H x 47W

Design size: $3^1/_3$" x $3^1/_3$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of the first color (floss) and two strands of the second (blending filament).

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. (**NOTE:** Dashed gray lines indicate basting lines for finishing process and are not to be backstitched).

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

1284		lettering
647	1040	outer border

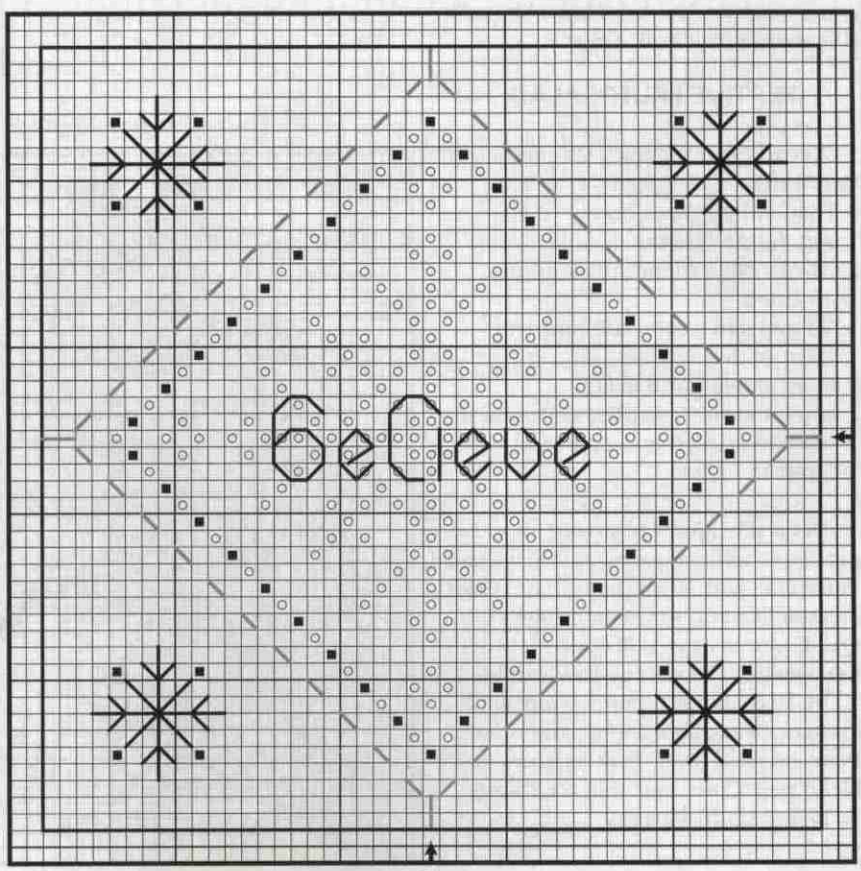
Finishing instructions: Using sewing thread, baste a line corresponding to dashed gray lines on chart.

Trim seam allowance to $^1/_4$" from backstitched outer border. Finger press seam allowance to wrong side along backstitched border. Fold corners of stitched piece to wrong side along basted lines, finger pressing folds: four "flaps" should meet together on reverse side to form a + shape. Lace backstitched edges together, using two strands 647/1040. Leave a small opening to stuff ornament with polyester fiberfill; stuff and then lace opening closed.

Twisted-cording trim was made from 1284, blanc/2, and 032. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34. Make a small loop at top corner of ornament for hanging, knot ends of cording together at bottom of ornament, and unravel cording to make fringed tassel.

Insert hook of Charland Designs, Inc., sterling ornament holder into twisted-cording loop.

(Photo is on page 25. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



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Believe

Charlette's Collectibles

Charlette Dockens

Especially during the Christmas season when we decorate our home, I am reminded of one of the many stories my grandmother told me when I was quite young. She said that God has many angels, each with special and unique tasks. Each of these angels cares for us and knows what we need exactly when we need it. And, just as He gave us His most precious gift that long ago Christmas, He has an angel whose job is to deliver to us wondrous packages of love. In these packages are His gifts to us called "earth angels."

Since there is nothing like seeing the world through the eyes of a child, we are thankful each time we think of that "special delivery angel," bringing us packages that have no other purpose than to love and to be loved. This is a favorite of my oldest granddaughter, Hannah Marie. She calls it Granana's fruit stuff. Enjoy!

FESTIVE FRUIT SALAD

1 (20-oz.) can pineapple chunks
½ c. sugar
3 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 egg, lightly beaten
2 (11-oz.) cans mandarin oranges, drained
1 (20-oz.) can pears, drained and chopped
3 kiwis, peeled and sliced
2 large unpeeled apples, chopped (I use one green and one red.)
1 c. pecan halves

Drain pineapple, reserving juice. Set pineapple aside. Pour juice into a small saucepan; add sugar and flour. Over medium heat on stovetop, bring to boil. Quickly stir in egg; cook until thickened. Remove from heat; cool. Refrigerate.

In large bowl, combine pineapple, oranges, pears, kiwi, apples, and pecans. Pour dressing over fruit mixture and blend well. Cover and chill for 1 hour.

Makes 12–16 servings.

EARTH ANGEL

Designed by Charlette Dockens of Charlette's Collectibles

	DMC®	Anchor®	
/	754	1012	peach, lt.
♡	760	1022	salmon
.	blanc	2	white
&	729	890	old gold, med.
☆	676	891	old gold, lt.
+	677	361	old gold, vy. lt.
a	3841	1096	baby blue, pl.
X	776	36	pink, med.
@	899	38	rose, med.
♥	335	40	rose
#	3755	140	baby blue
■	322	978	baby blue, dk.
∩	963	23	dusty rose, ul. vy. lt.
○	775	128	baby blue, vy. lt.
◔	blanc	2	white
	100 Kreinik® BF		white
▲	210	108	lavender, med.
	093 Kreinik® BF		star mauve
✱	211	342	lavender, lt.
	093 Kreinik® BF		star mauve
bs	3350	77	dusty rose, ul. dk.
bs	312	979	baby blue, vy. dk.
bs	938	381	coffee brown, ul. dk.

Fabric: 5" x 6" piece 14-count white perforated plastic from Yarn Tree

Stitch count: 43H x 53W
Design size: 3 1/8" x 3 3/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using three strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use two strands of the first color (floss) and one strand of the second (blending filament).

Backstitch over one square, using one strand of floss.

Work Algerian-eye stitch over two squares on gift in angel's hands, using one strand 3350/77.

Backstitch instructions:

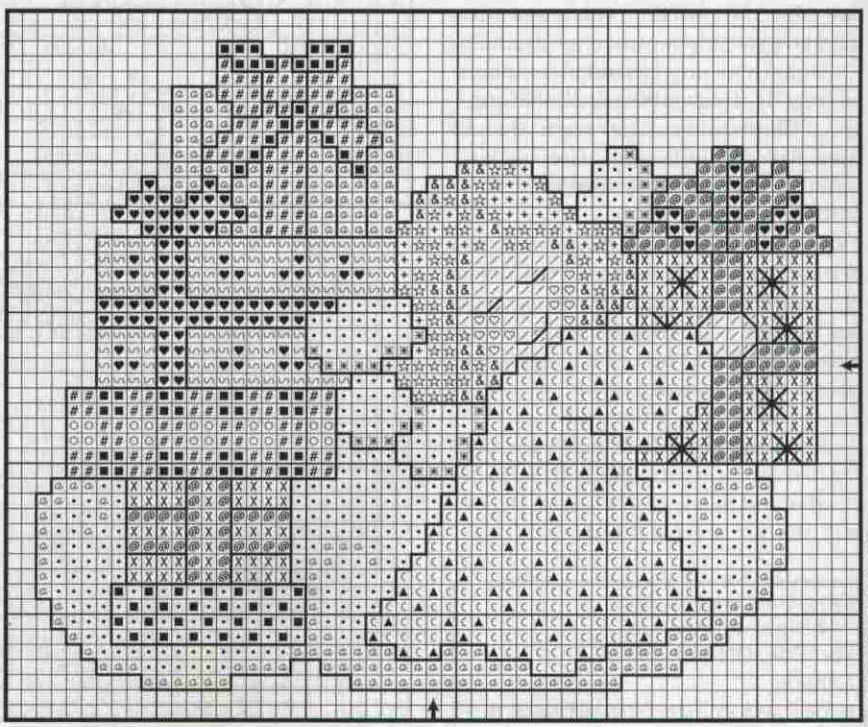
312	979	stripes on top gift
938	381	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Trim stitched piece to one square from stitching. Using trimmed stitched piece as a template, cut out backing from coordinating fabric.

Position hanger on ornament and glue fabric to back of stitched piece.

Charlette's Collectibes
1824 Octubre Street
El Paso, TX 79936
e-mail: *toocute@elp.rr.com*
Web site: www.charlettescollectibles.com

(Photo is on page 23. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Earth Angel

Charlotte's Web Needlework

Charlotte Smyth

Friends are without doubt one of the greatest blessings and joys of life. With this ornament, I celebrate friendship and pay tribute to those special friends of mine who have stood by me through some difficult times recently.

They saw me through a cancer scare and gave me not only cups of tea, hugs, and tissues but also smiles to hold as special memories. All of my friends came through, but none more so than the "mad stitching women" of The Sampler Guild, pictured here. We have been together as a group for only a relatively short period of time. During that time, in spite of our diversity but with our common love of stitching, we have become so very important to each other. We may not be able to put it into words, but we all understand how real and important the bond is. Deb, most of all, this is for you. My oldest friend, you have been there through all of the good and bad times.

Now, you may be asking yourself what a house has to do with friendship. Well, once I had decided to focus on friendship as my theme for this year's ornament, I started to think of a visual image that would express it. After much thought, I decided that I have always hoped that my home would be a place where my friends would feel welcome and comfortable. No, this isn't my house; mine is not this grand. The inspiration for the ornament came from one of my treasures: a glass-plate photo of my great-great-grandfather's house that burned in the Chicago fire. In the photo, my great-grandmother, who turned 90 the day before I was born, is sitting on the step with her doll. While I have no memory of her, a quilt she pieced sits on my bed and is just one more way in which stitching binds us together.

FOR MY FRIENDS

Designed by Charlotte Smyth
of Charlotte's Web Needlework

	DMC®	Anchor®	
@	414	235	steel gray, dk.
♀	415	398	pearl gray,
■	433	358	brown, med.
•	712	926	cream

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

★	0140	blue spruce

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

✳	7039	bayberry
	7001	barn gray (double-Hungarian stitch
	7014	antique rose

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 32-count antique white Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 69H x 64W
Design size: $4^3/_8$" x 4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work French knot where • appears, using two strands of floss and wrapping floss around needle once.

Work double-Hungarian stitch where heavy vertical lines appear on roof, using two strands 7001.

Work brick stitch where horizontal gray lines appear for house, using two strands 7014.

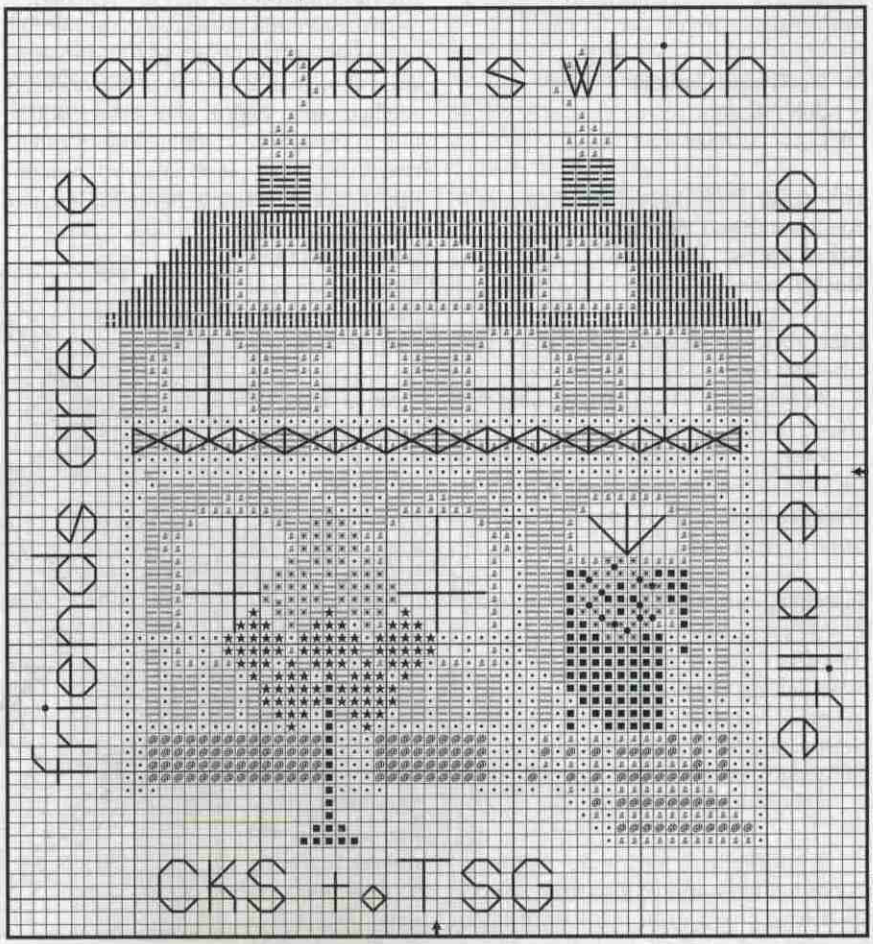
French-knot instructions:

7014	wreath on door
7001	lettering

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Tatted trim was purchased.

Charlotte's Web Needlework
39 High Worple
Harrow, Middlesex HA2 9SX
England
e-mail:
charlotteswebneedlework@yahoo.co.uk
Web site:
www.charlotteswebneedlework.com

(Photo is on page 15. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



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For My Friends

Cherished Stitches

Louise Henderson

There have been many Christmas memories that are special to me, but I think this past Christmas was especially memorable. My daughters got together and scrapbooked Christmas photos and presented them to me on Christmas Eve. They made two books, one for the '70s and one for the '80s. They have promised me one for the '90s this coming Christmas, and I can hardly wait to see it.

Each book included many happy memories and brought tears to my eyes, as I got to remember all the special times we had together with my parents, my husband's parents, and my children as they grew older each year.

EMBLEM OF FRIENDSHIP NEEDLE CASE

Designed by Louise Henderson of Cherished Stitches

The Thread Gatherer
Silk'n Colors
- 171 cerise noir

Fabric: Two 7" x 7" pieces 28-count meadow rue linen from Lakeside Linens
Stitch count: 43H x 43W
Design size: $3\frac{1}{8}$" x $3\frac{1}{8}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Repeat outer border on second piece of linen. Personalize with initials and date. (**NOTE:** Personalized piece will form bottom of needle case.)

Finishing materials and instructions:
8" x 8" piece Bristol board
Two 4" x 4" pieces silk dupioni for lining
Wool felt for needle pages
Warm & Natural® cotton batting
Sewing thread to match silk ribbon
36"-length 9mm double-face silk satin ribbon to match lining

Trim stitched pieces to $\frac{1}{2}$" from backstitched borders. Cut four pieces of Bristol board to fit just within backstitched outline of stitched pieces. Using Bristol board as template, cut out eight pieces of batting. Using Bristol-board template, cut out two pieces of silk lining to $\frac{1}{2}$" beyond edge of Bristol board. Using pinking shears, cut two pieces of wool felt slightly smaller than template.

Glue one piece of batting to one side of each piece of Bristol board. Center wrong side of one stitched piece against batting-side of one board; fold seam allowance over edge of board and glue seam allowance in place on opposite side. Repeat process to cover remaining pieces of Bristol board with remaining stitched piece and both lining pieces.

Assemble needle-case top. From silk ribbon, cut three $\frac{1}{2}$" lengths and two 10" lengths; fold each $\frac{1}{2}$" length in half and secure cut ends with a small tacking stitch. Referring to illustration on page 117, place folded ribbons side-by-side along one edge of wrong side of stitched piece. Folded edge of ribbon should extend past edge of stitched piece by $\frac{1}{8}$". Lightly glue or tack in place. Place one end of one 10" length of ribbon on opposite side of medallion and glue in place. Place one lining piece atop stitched piece, wrong sides together. Blind stitch together, securing silk-ribbon pieces as they are reached.

Assemble needle-case bottom. Glue one end of remaining 10" length of silk ribbon to seam allowance at bottom of personalized stitched piece. Lightly glue a piece of batting to wrong side of stitched piece and to remaining lining piece. Sandwich remaining pieces of batting between stitched piece and lining piece. (**NOTE:** Total thickness of bottom assembly should measure $\frac{3}{8}$"; add or remove a layer of batting as necessary.) When satisfied with thickness, lightly glue remaining layers of batting together so that layers will not shift. Allow to dry.

Place wool-felt needle pages together. Tack to lining of bottom assembly at opposite side from 10" ribbon. Referring to illustration on page 117, cut a $2\frac{1}{2}$" length of silk ribbon and place over tacked edge of wool-felt pages; sew in place along long edges of ribbon and fold ends of ribbon over sides of assembly.

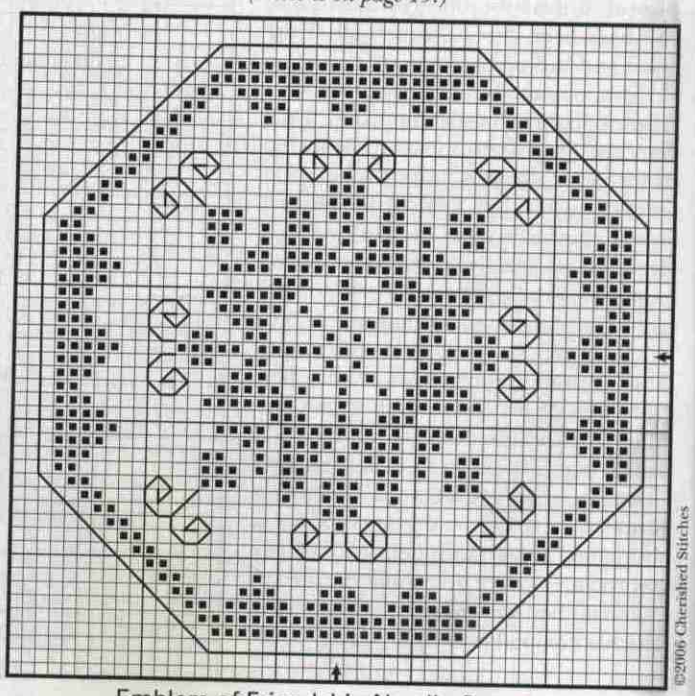
Beginning near side corner and using coordinating thread, blind stitch remaining length of ribbon around perimeter of bottom assembly along top and bottom edges (ribbon should rest against middle layers of batting). When beginning point is reached, turn cut edge under and secure fold with several small stitches.

Join top to bottom. Place top and bottom of needle case together with stitched pieces facing out and sides with 10" ribbons aligned. Using coordinating thread, sew folded edge of silk-ribbon "hinges" to corresponding edge of bottom assembly.

Make a 12" length of twisted cording from 171 Silk'n Colors. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34. To form hanger, loop cording around hinge of case and knot 2" from ends. Unravel cording beyond knot to create fringed tassel. Tie ribbons at bottom-edge of case into a bow to close case.

Cherished Stitches
1310 Westridge Road
Greensboro, NC 27410
e-mail: *lucystitch@earthlink.net*
Web site: *www.cherishedstitches.com*

(Photo is on page 19.)



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Emblem of Friendship Needle Case

Cindy Valentine Designs

Cindy Valentine

This is one of my family's favorite Christmas cookies. The key is in filling the cookies at least an hour before serving. If you fill them too soon, they will be soggy; and if you don't let them sit, they will not be tender. I often double the recipe and freeze the cookies. I can then fill as many as needed. For Valentine's Day, I fill them with raspberry preserves.

Apricot-Filled Hazelnut Hearts

1½ c. butter, softened
1¾ c. powdered sugar
1 egg
2 c. all-purpose flour
1 c. cornstarch
2 c. ground hazelnuts (filberts)
1 (18-oz.) jar apricot jam

In a mixing bowl, cream butter and powdered sugar together until light and fluffy. Blend in egg. Add flour and cornstarch and mix well. Add ground nuts and mix until evenly distributed throughout dough. Shape into a ball and chill for at least 4 hours.

Preheat oven to 325°.

Roll out dough until about 1/4" thick. Cut with heart-shaped cookie cutters. Using a smaller heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut out the center of half the hearts. (These will be the "tops" and the uncut hearts will be the "bottoms.") Place on ungreased cookie sheets.

Bake for 10–15 minutes, or until just starting to brown. Do not overbake! Cool on wire racks. At this point, you can either fill them or store them frozen for later use.

To fill cookies, spread a layer of apricot jam on each cookie bottom. Lay a cookie top on the jam. Press gently into place. After all cookies are filled, sprinkle tops with powdered sugar, using a sifter.

(**NOTE:** If you find the apricot jam is too chunky, use your food processor to smooth it out.)

Cindy Valentine Designs
1525 Kenosha Court
Davenport, IA 52804
e-mail: *cindy@cindyvalentine.com*
Web site: *www.cindyvalentine.com*

GLORIA

Designed by Cindy Valentine of Cindy Valentine Designs

DMC® Anchor®

.	blanc	2	white
○	951	1010	tawny, lt.
♀	726	295	topaz, lt.
	320	215	pistachio green, med.

DMC® Coton Perlé #8

blanc	white

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

002HL	gold, lt.

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

■	2264	garnet

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Pearl Cotton #8

2156	hunter

Mill Hill Frosted Glass Beads

♥	62012	royal plum

Mill Hill Petite Seed Beads

☆	42011	Victorian gold

Fabric: 9½" x 9½" piece 28-count antique ivory Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 50H x 50W
Design size: 3½" x 3½"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work Kloster blocks over four threads for border, using one strand of DMC® Coton Perlé #8.

Work straight stitch for leaves, using one strand 2156.

Work lazy-daisy stitch for angels' halos, using one strand 002HL.

Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads for center motif, using two strands 320/215 and pulling each leg slightly to open hole in center of stitch.

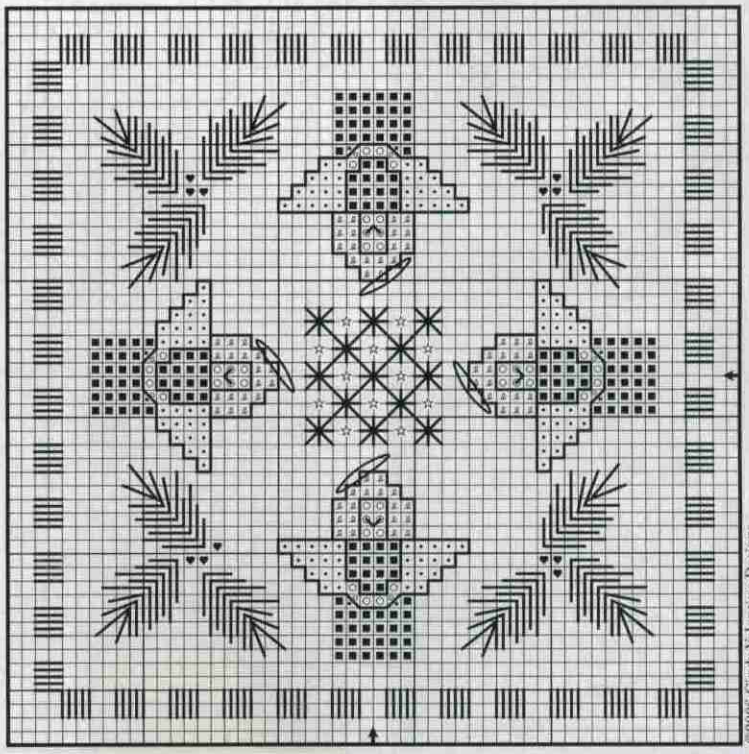
Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss and a cross stitch.

Backstitch instructions:

2264		angels' mouths
310	403	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording was made using DMC®163 six-strand embroidery floss, DMC® 498 Coton Perlé, and Kreinik® 002HL 1/16-inch ribbon. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34. For hanger, insert a 22" length of 1/16" ribbon beneath Kloster-block border, making one knot where ends meet at top-center of border and a second knot at cut ends of ribbon.

(Photo is on page 13. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Gloria

Country Cottage Needleworks

Nikki Leeman

One of my favorite memories of being in the kitchen when I was young is baking butter cookies with my mom. My brother and I loved to help decorate the cookies; and now that I am a mom, it's something that I love to do with my daughter as well.

Butter Cookies

1 c. butter, softened
2/3 c. sugar
1 egg
2 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1/8 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 400°.

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar together. Add egg, flour, salt, and vanilla. Mix until smooth.

Place mixture into a cookie press, following manufacturer's instructions for making cookies. Press onto ungreased cookie sheets.

Sprinkle with colored sugar or nonpareils. Bake for 10 minutes, or until golden. Place on wire racks to cool.

WINTER'S EVE

Designed by Nikki Leeman
of Country Cottage Needleworks

	DMC®	Anchor®	
☆	435	365	brown, vy. lt.
ℓ	644	391	beige gray, med.
✳	677	361	old gold, vy. lt.
■	3790	904	beige gray, ul. dk.
○	blanc	2	white

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

$	2200	kudzu

Crescent Colours Hand-Dyed Floss

X		blue moon

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count natural raw Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 46H x 53W
Design size: 3 3/8" x 3 7/8"

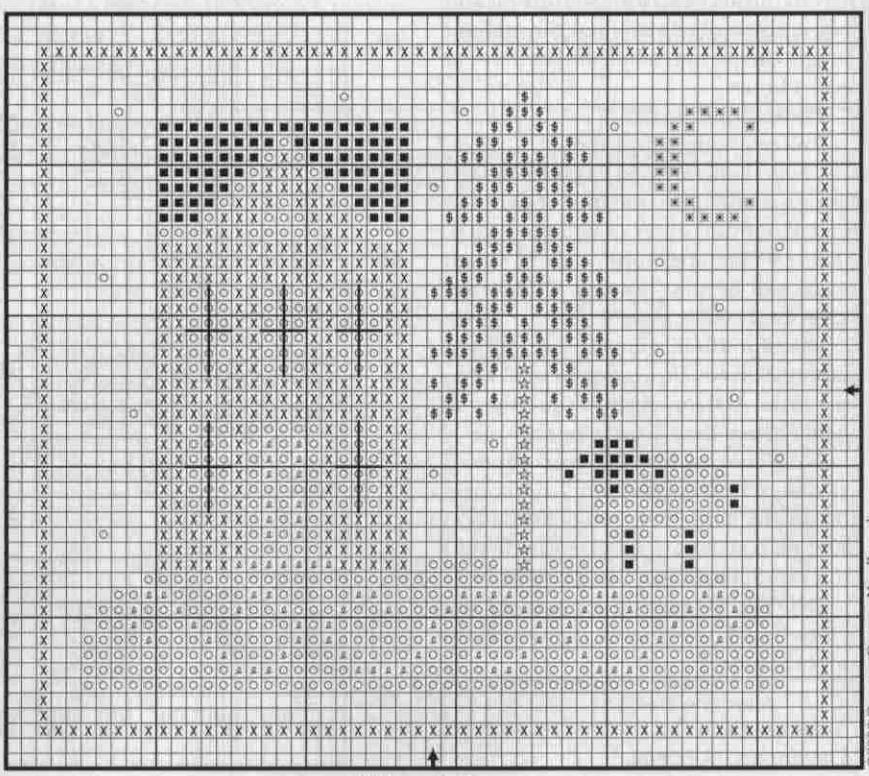
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Trim stitched piece to 1/2" from stitched border. Finger press 1/4" seam allowance to back. Blind stitch to pillow made from Weeks Dye Works™ 2200 kudzu wool. Pillow-ornament finishing instructions are on page 34. Hanger was made using Crescent Colours poblano pepper Hand Dyed Pearl Cotton.

Country Cottage Needleworks
6073 North Raspberry Court
Tucson, AZ 85741
e-mail: *cottagestitching@aol.com*
Web site: *countrycottageneedleworks.com*

Our Finish Lines
Complete Your Cross Stitch Creations
Flying Needles Finishing Forms come in a variety of size and shapes for that professional touch, plus our Finishing Stands make for easy finishing of standing figures and even easier storage in 3"and 6"sizes.
FLYING NEEDLES
AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL RETAILER OR VISIT
www.flyingneedlestx.com

(Photo is on page 15.)



Winter's Eve

©2006 Country Cottage Needleworks

Cross-Eyed Cricket, Inc.

Vicki Hastings

When I was seven years old, my family lived in Seaside Park, New Jersey, a pebble's throw from the Atlantic Ocean. I liked being seven years old. My favorite food at any time of day was macaroni and cheese—still is. My favorite Christmas tradition was the re-enactment of the marvelous and mysterious story of Christ's birth—still is. Don't let the grown-up disguise fool you, I am still seven years old.

Mac & Cheese

2 c. elbow macaroni
2 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 c. milk
1 c. shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
1 c. shredded Monterrey Jack cheese
1/4 c. grated Parmesan cheese
3 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/2 c. sour cream
Salt to taste
Ground white pepper to taste
1 c. chopped, seeded tomatoes, skins removed
1/2 c. finely chopped green peppers
1/2–1 c. crumbled crisp bacon
4 slices white bread, finely torn
2 Tbsp. butter, melted

Cook macaroni according to package instructions. Rinse in cold water; drain; set aside. Preheat oven to 350°.

In a large pan over medium heat on stovetop, melt 2 Tbsp. butter. When butter bubbles, add flour; cook, stirring for 1 minute. Slowly whisk in milk, stirring constantly until thickened. Lower heat. Stir in cheeses and sour cream, blending until all are melted and smooth. If the sauce is too thick, add small amounts of milk, 1 tablespoon at a time. Season cheese sauce with salt and white pepper to taste. (At this point, add tomatoes, green peppers, and bacon, if desired.) Add the prepared macaroni to the cheese sauce and mix well. Pour all into a buttered casserole dish.

Toss white bread pieces with 2 Tbsp. melted butter. Sprinkle over top of casserole.

Bake for 30–45 minutes, or until bubbly and lightly brown.

Mitten Template

"AWAY IN A MANGER" MITTEN

Designed by Vicki Hastings of Cross-Eyed Cricket, Inc.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	939	152	navy blue, vy. dk.
.	3865	2	winter white
@	3740	872	antique violet, dk.
X	3042	870	antique violet, lt.
~	822	390	beige-gray, lt.
✳	642	392	beige-gray, dk.
/	676	891	old gold, lt.
○	677	361	old gold, vy. lt.

	Just Another Button Company™	
★	nh 1056.M	angel
♥	nh 1050.M	baby Jesus
◆	nh 1052.M	Joseph
●	nh 1051.M	Mary
▲	3313.M	white star

Fabric: 10 1/2" x 10 1/2" piece 10-count Admiral Quig's blue over-dyed Tula from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 43H x 42W
Design size: 4 3/8" x 4 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using five strands of floss.

Attach buttons, using two strands of floss.

NOTE: Outline of mitten on chart indicates shape of finished ornament and is not to be backstitched.

Finishing materials and instructions:
5" x 5" piece lightweight, acid-free cardboard
5" x 5" piece Weeks Dye Works ™ 1317 eggplant wool
8" length (1/8"-diameter) navy grosgrain ribbon

Using contrasting sewing thread, baste outline of mitten; finger press along basted line. Remove basting thread.

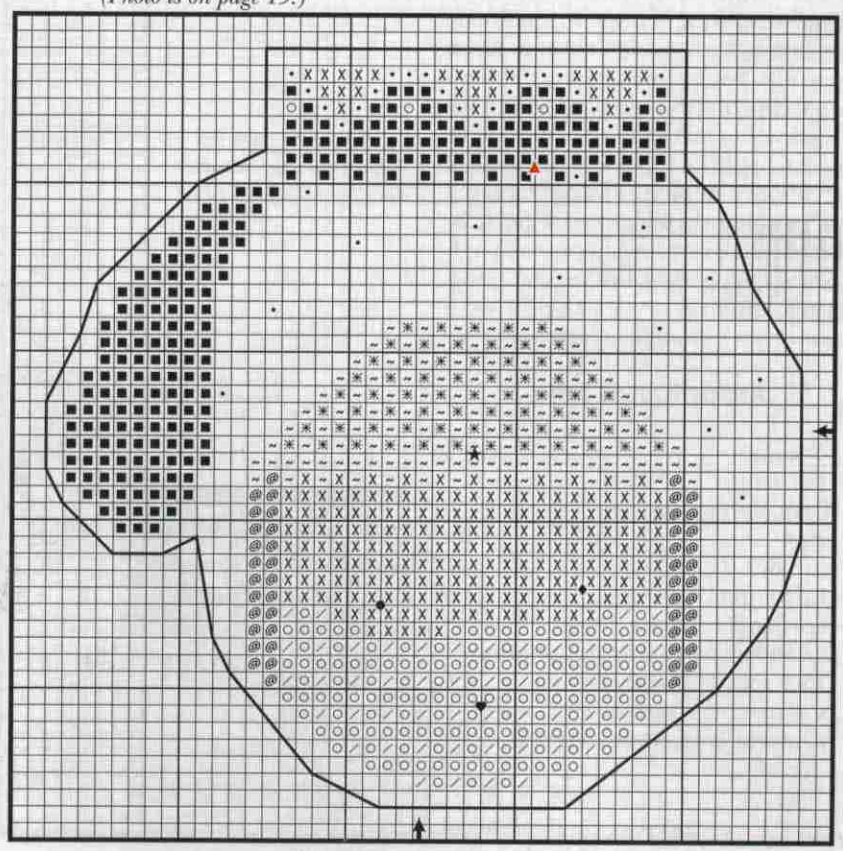
Using mitten template, cut out cardboard. Using pinking shears and cardboard mitten, cut out wool 1/2" beyond edge of cardboard.

Place cardboard against wrong side of stitching and fold seam allowances over cardboard; glue seam allowances in place on back of cardboard. Center stitched piece atop wool and glue in place.

Fold ribbon in half and tack to top-center of ornament for hanger.

Cross-Eyed Cricket, Inc.
14554 Amstel Court
Chesterfield, MO 63017
e-mail: *cecricket@cecricket.com*
Web site: *www.cecricket.com*

(Photo is on page 13.)



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"Away in a Manger" Mitten

DebBee's Designs

Debbie Rowley

We love Christmas morning! When our children were small, they awoke very early and came to our room to wake us so we could all troop in to see the tree and the goodies under it. We always wondered why our children never seemed to be very surprised on Christmas morning, until our daughter confessed their secret—they got up in the night, went to see what was under the tree, and then went back to bed. Now, we're all adults (no grandkids yet), so we have a more leisured pace. We still get up early, make a wonderful and out-of-the-ordinary breakfast, and settle in to open presents.

"First Light" reminds us that Christ, the Light of the world, came to us at Christmas. May His light shine in your hearts all year!

This recipe was born out of neccesity—I had several dozen leftover Krispy Kreme doughnuts, and I couldn't bear to throw them out. So, I combined my mother's wonderful stirred custard recipe with the doughnuts to make this trifle. If you like filled doughnuts, you'll love this trifle. If the custard is chilled before combining, it won't soak into the doughnuts as much. Be warned: this is very sweet! But, it certainly is festive enough for Christmas morning. Change the fruit if you like or if fresh strawberries cannot be found.

Krispy Kreme Trifle

- 3/4 c. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 4 eggs
- 4 c. milk
- 1/4 c. margarine
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts, torn into 1" pieces
- 3 or 4 bananas, peeled and sliced
- 1 qt. strawberries, washed and sliced

In a large saucepan, combine sugar, salt, and cornstarch. In a blender, combine eggs and milk; blend until smooth. Slowly stir egg mixture into sugar mixture. Cook over medium heat on stovetop, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and boils. Cook for 2 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in margarine and vanilla. Press plastic wrap on top of custard and chill.

In a trifle dish, arrange half the doughnut pieces, followed by half the bananas and strawberries. Top with half the custard. Repeat layers. Chill until ready to serve.

Serves 8 hungry (or 12 polite) people.

FIRST LIGHT

Designed by Debbie Rowley
of DebBee's Designs

Crescent Colours Hand-Dyed Floss

- ■ la tierra
- X Finley gold
- / organza pink
- ○ bella rosa
- • toasted marshmallow

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

- ☆ 002 gold hi lustre

Fabric: 9" x 8" piece 28-count flax Cashel® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 55H x 35W
Design size: 4" x 2 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work three-quarter cross stitch where small symbols and thin diagonal lines appear, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads for eye, using two strands of la tierra.

Work long stitch where dark lines appear for swaddling, using two strands la tierra.

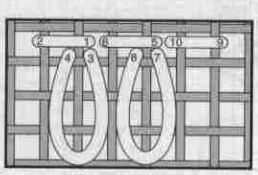
Work long stitch for star rays, using one strand of very fine braid.

Work modified turkey-work stitch where heavy line appears around infant, using two or three strands of Finley gold and creating loops of varying lengths. When stitches are complete, clip looped end of stitch to create fringe.

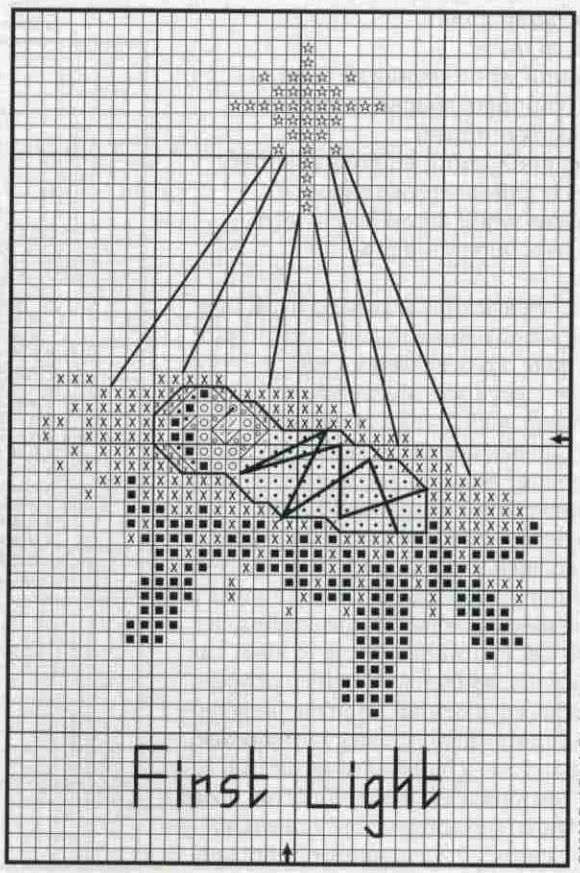
Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Trim was purchased.

DebBee's Designs
27 White Oak Drive
Conway, AR 72034
e-mail: *debbie@debbeesdesigns.com*
Web site: *www.debbeesdesigns.com*

(Photo is on page 12. Additional stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Modified Turkey-Work Stitch



First Light

©2006 DebBee's Designs

Dragon Dreams, Inc.

Jennifer Aikman-Smith

It is the unexpected gifts during the holiday season that often come to mean the most. I can think of many holidays where things seemed impossible, yet they all worked out. I have felt caught up in the commercial clutter, and then a simple, handmade gift reminded me of all that is precious about this special season.

Those are the memories that we come to treasure as the years go by. That is what we find ourselves thinking of when the carols are playing softly in the background and the tree is waiting to be decorated.

One of the fondest childhood memories I have is of making ornaments as a family each year. Close friends, teachers, and those who had touched our lives in special ways each got an ornament at Christmas. My mother would pick a project that we could do as a family. I am sure that she made most of them, but I can still remember giving teachers the ones that I had made myself. These included ornaments coloured onto foam meat trays with crayons; dayglow poster-board shapes of doves or bells covered with split peas, barley, and kidney beans glued on in patterns; macramé snowflakes, etc. I was a child of the 70s.

Yet here I am, years later, keeping the same tradition with my own daughters. The crafts may have changed, but there is something special and magical about sitting down to create things together. When they unpack samples of previous years' ornaments, they remember the fun of making them and the time we spent together. Best of all are the smiles of wonder when those on our list receive an ornament from our family to add to their tree. Unexpected gifts are part of the magic of this season. May you savour each one!

SANTA'S UNEXPECTED GIFT

Designed by Jennifer Aikman-Smith of Dragon Dreams, Inc.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
/	blanc	2	white
♀	223	895	shell pink, lt.
○	224	893	shell pink, vy. lt.
▲	319	1044	pistachio green, vy. dk.
~	369	1043	pistachio green, vy. lt.
*	415	398	pearl gray
@	498	1005	red, dk.
♥	814	45	garnet, dk.
◑	815	44	garnet, med.
■	3371	382	black-brown

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

☾	032	pearl

Rainbow Gallery Fuzzy Stuff

.	F215	white

Mill Hill Glass Treasures

12177	large flat opal star

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count dirty linen Zweigart® Cashel® linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 49H x 49W
Design size: 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of braid or fuzzy stuff.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand 3371/382.

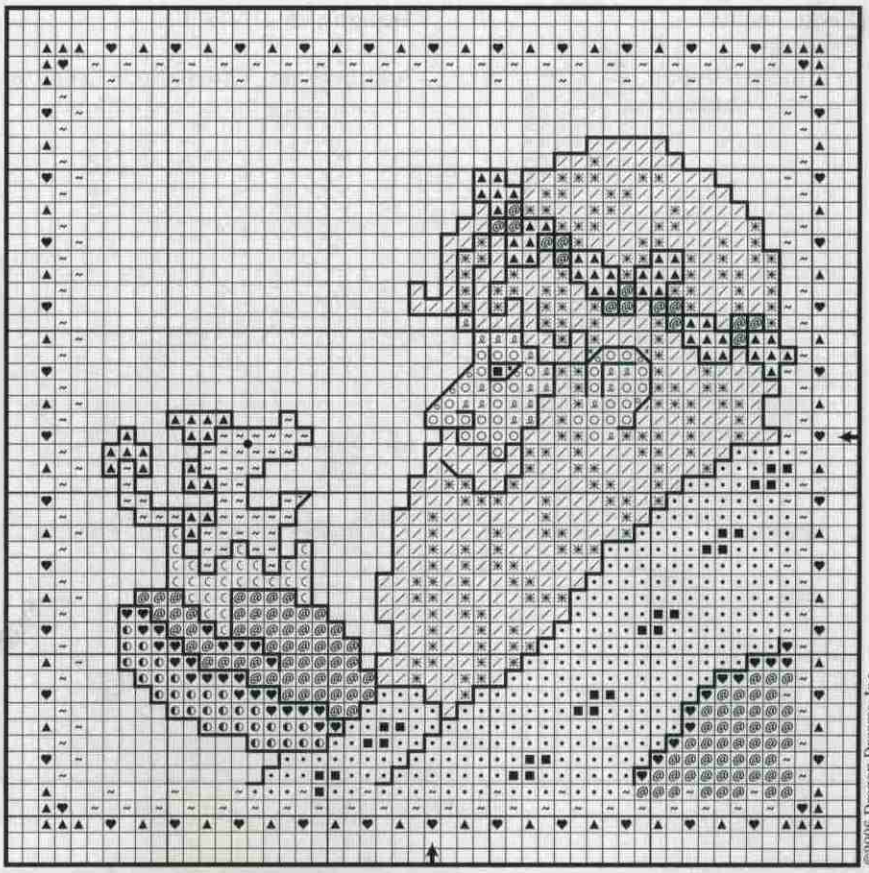
Work French knot where ● appears for dragon's eye, using one strand 3371/382 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Attach star above dragon's head, using two strands of matching floss and referring to photo on page 29 for placement.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording hanger was made using 814/45, 319/1044, and 032. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

Dragon Dreams, Inc.
112 Highmeadow Drive
Moncton, NB E1G 2C3
Canada
e-mail: *dragondr@nbnet.nb.ca*
Web site: *www.dragondreams.ca*

(Photo is on page 29. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



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Santa's Unexpected Gift

Elizabeth's Designs

Elizabeth Foster

One of the nicest things about winter and the holiday season is it brings many more birds to our feeders. This year's ornament features my favorite, the cardinal. I picture them singing on a cold, snowy Christmas morning. Happy holidays and best wishes to you and yours!

Whole-Wheat Blueberry Muffins

1 c. all-purpose flour
1 c. whole-wheat flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 c. sugar
1/4 c. brown sugar
3 tsp. baking powder
1 egg, beaten
1 c. milk
1/4 c. melted butter
1 c. fresh blueberries

Preheat oven to 400°.

In a mixing bowl, combine flours, salt, sugars, and baking powder.

In another bowl, combine egg, milk, and melted butter. Add to flour mixture. Mix; use care not to overmix batter. (Batter will not be smooth.)

Fold in blueberries.

Pour in greased muffin tins, filling 2/3 full.

Bake for 20–25 minutes.

Makes 12 muffins.

CHRISTMAS CHORUS

Designed by Elizabeth Foster
of Elizabeth's Designs

	Kreinik® Silk Mori	DMC®	
X	3017	3777	terra-cotta, vy. dk.
■	7136	839	beige-brown, dk.
@	noir	310	black
	4215	3011	khaki-green, dk.

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads

○	40374	black

Fabric: 7" x 8" piece 36-count light sand Edinburgh linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 31H x 53W
Design size: 1 3/4" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work leaf stitch, using one strand 4215/3011.

Attach beads, using one strand 4215/3011 and a half cross stitch.

Backstitch instructions:

3017	377	birds' bodies, lettering
7136	839	wings
noir	310	beaks, legs
4215	3011	leaf stems

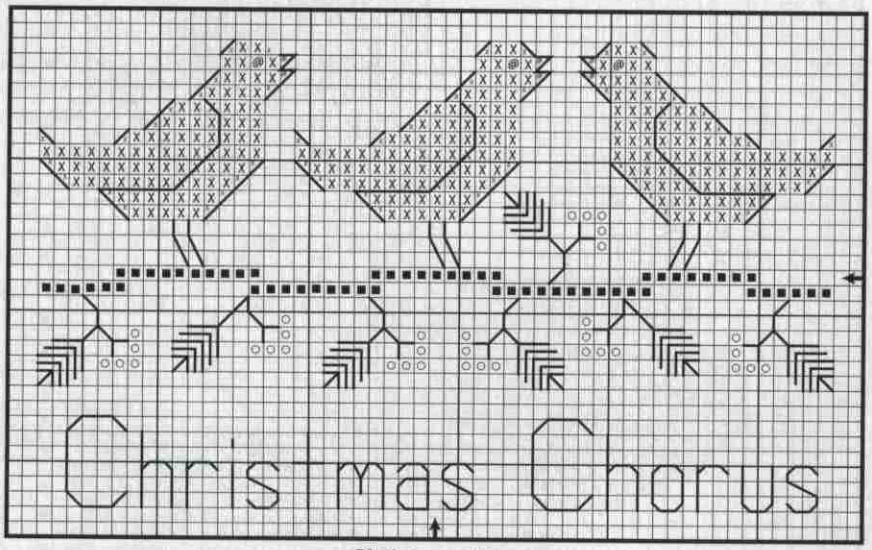
Finishing instructions: Trim stitched piece to 1" from stitching along all sides. Fold seam allowance to wrong side 1/2" from stitching; finger press along fold.

Referring to pillow-finishing instructions on page 34, create a pillow from two 4 1/2" x 5 1/2" pieces Weeks Dye Works™ 2158 juniper wool. Attach stitched piece to pillow, using a blanket stitch and one strand DMC® 937 Coton Perlé #8.

Hanger was made from three 24" lengths jute twine, braided and knotted at both ends. Whip stitch hanger to sides of ornament, aligning knotted ends of braid with bottom corners of ornament.

Elizabeth's Designs
1880 Cain Road
North Collins, NY 14111
e-mail: *elizfoster@aol.com*
Web site: *www.elizabethsdesigns.com*

(Photo is on page 21. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Christmas Chorus

©2006 Elizabeth's Designs

Erica Michaels Designs

Linda Stolz

The weeks before Christmas have always been so full of anticipation, making the actual observed Christmas Day a bit anti-climactic! One of my favorite symbols of this time of waiting is the Advent wreath. As a child, the first time I'd see it displayed in church, I just knew Christmas was not too far away. And today, the wreath is one of the many ways our family

enjoys the season. The circular wreath of evergreen reminds us of an unending and eternal love, and each of the candles has symbolic significance as well—the purple (or blue-violet) candles represent faith, hope, and love. The single rose-colored candle represents joy.

May your Christmas season be full of wonderful anticipation!

Peppernuts are a very small crunchy cookie treat traditional in many Mennonite communities where I grew up. There are lots of variations, many of them flavored with anise for a light licorice taste. The recipe makes a lot, and they easily pack up into bags perfect for holiday gift-giving.

Pfefferneusse – Peppernuts

1 c. sugar
1 c. shortening
2 eggs, well beaten
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ground allspice
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
1/4 tsp. anise oil (about 25 drops)
1/4 c. light corn syrup
1/2 c. molasses
1/3 c. water
1 tsp. baking soda
6 2/3 c. all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 375°.

In a medium mixing bowl, cream sugar and shortening. Add eggs, spices, and anise oil. In another bowl, combine corn syrup, molasses, water, and soda. Add to creamed mixture. Add flour; stir well.

Chill for at least 4 hours (overnight is better). Mold or roll into long, pencil shaped rolls and slice into 1/4-inch pieces. Place, cut-side down, on greased cookie sheets.

Bake for about 8 minutes, or until light brown. Makes about 500.

Erica Michaels Designs
344 Wells Court
Clarksville, TN 37043
e-mail: *emstitch@charter.net*
Web site:
www.ericamichaels.com

LIGHTS OF ADVENT

Designed by Linda Stolz of Erica Michaels Designs

Au Ver a Soie® Soie d'Alger®	DMC®	
/ 621	744	yellow, pl.
ℓ 622	742	tangerine, lt.
@ 1846	890	pistachio green, ul. dk.
♡ 3032	3608	plum, vy. lt.
■ 3316	550	violet, vy. dk.
a 3334	210	lavender, med.
X 3725	935	avocado green, dk.
. brut	3866	mocha brown, ul. vy. lt.

Fabric: 9 1/2" x 9 1/2" piece 35-count natural brown undyed linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 64H x 59W
Design size: 3 5/8" x 3 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of Soie d'Alger® or two strands of DMC®.

Work long stitch for holly leaves, using one strand 1846/890 for leaves stitched with 3725/935. Work long stitch, using one strand 3725/935 for holly leaves stitched with 1846/890.

Work Rhodes stitch over four threads, using one strand 3725/935.

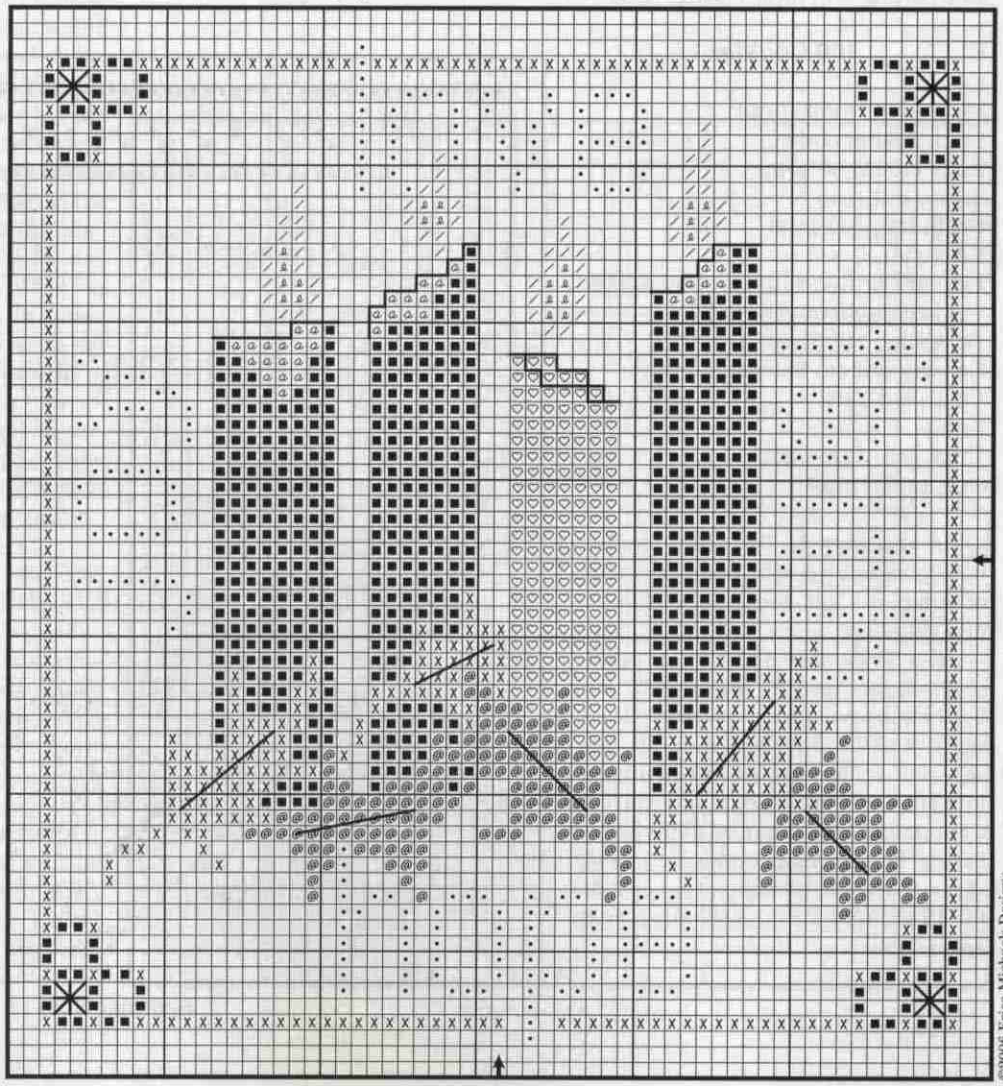
Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch instructions:

3316	550	purple candles
3032	3608	pink candles

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim was made using 3316/550. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

(Photo is on page 24. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Lights of Advent

©2006 Erica Michaels Designs

Fancy Work

Jane Timmers

One of the greatest things about the season preceding Christmas is the fact that everyone loves to bake. And cookie exchanges have always been a part of the holiday season. A few years ago, I found this recipe in a local newspaper and thought that since the name is "100 Cookies," it would be a wonderful recipe for a cookie exchange. It is; but if you love coconut and toffee bits, you'll have a hard time parting with these cookies. Yum!

100 Cookies

3½ c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cream of tartar
¾ tsp. salt
1 c. butter, softened
1 c. sugar
1 c. light brown sugar, lightly packed
1 c. vegetable or canola oil
1 c. Kellogg's® Rice Krispies®
1 c. sweetened, flaked coconut
1 c. rolled oats
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
6 oz. toffee bits

Preheat oven to 350°. In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking soda, cream of tartar, and salt. Set aside. Cut butter into chunks.

In a large mixing bowl, combine sugars, butter, and oil. Blend well, until butter is in small pieces or creamed with sugar. Add Rice Krispies®, coconut, oats, egg, and vanilla. Gradually add flour mixture and mix well. Fold in toffee pieces. Chill dough for 1 hour or more before baking. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheets, lined with parchment paper. Bake for 10 minutes, or until slightly golden around edges.

SAMPLER NOEL

Designed by Jane Timmers of Fancy Work

Gloriana Hand-Dyed Silk Floss
■ 062 cranberry

Fabric: 10" x 10" piece 32-count examplar linen from Lakeside Linens
Stitch count: 63H x 59W
Design size: 4" x 3¾"

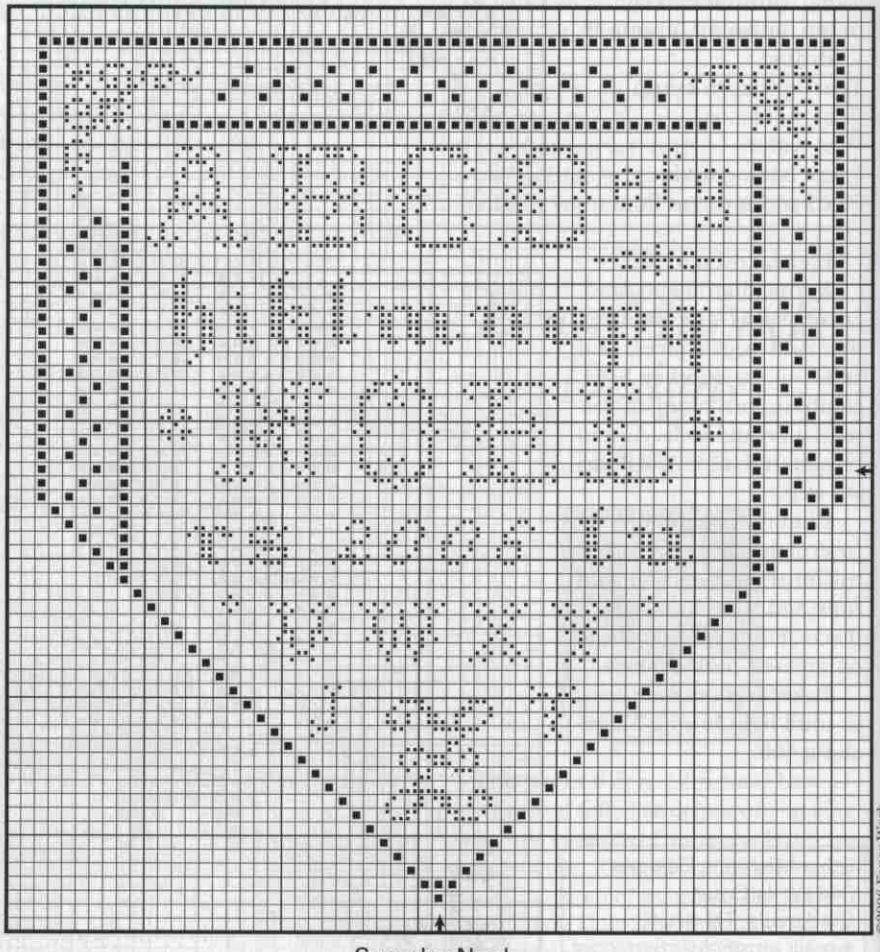
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear, using one strand of floss.

Replace *J T* initials with your own initials or desired personalization.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Ribbon trim was made using 4mm and 7mm Gloriana cranberry Hand-Dyed Silk Ribbon. Twist two ribbons together and tack in place, using a whipstitch and allowing ribbons to pouf and twist. Leave 8" tail at bottom point when beginning and ending. Once the ribbon twist is complete, tie the 4mm ribbon in bow and tie 7mm ribbon in bow. Cut 16" lengths of each ribbon to use as hanger; knot and tack at upper corners.

(Photo is on page 19.)

Fancy Work
4233 Glenforest Way
Roswell, GA 30075
e-mail: *fancywork@bellsouth.net*
Web site: *www.fancywork.net*



Sampler Noel

Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches

Lauren Sauer

Long ago, when I was a child, the telephone rang one December night at supper time. Daddy left the table to answer it and returned shortly with a big smile on his face. "Hurry up and clean your plates!" Grandpa had invited us to come out to the farm; he had a surprise for us.

In those days, hardly anyone went out at night. But, we piled into the car: my little sister, Robin, and our little brother, Brian, and I in the back seat; Mama and Daddy in the front. All of us bundled up for the long drive out of the city into the snowy countryside.

As the street lights got fewer and fewer the further we went, it seemed to me that all the stars God ever made began to fill the night sky. Snowflakes fell gently and silently, swept away rhythmically by the swipe of the car's wiper blades. "Are we there yet? Are we there yet?" In those days, it took nearly an hour to reach my grandparent's home. With a surprise at the other end that night, the drive seemed to take forever. Finally, we reached the bottom of the driveway, and other cars were idling there too! The cars of our aunts, uncles, and cousins. How curious! How exciting!

As our wintry caravan began making its way up the icy, winding drive, the snow began to fall more heavily. And suddenly, in the light of the car's headlamps, softened by the snowfall, stood Grandpa Sauer at the entrance to the stable. On either side of him stood a snowclad Shetland pony—Buster and Buzzy—a Christmas present never to be forgotten.

This year's ornament celebrates ten very special years for this publication. I've borrowed a cluster of stars from an 1813 Christmas sampler (in a private collection), embroidered by Phoebe Edwards. Her verse reads:

And there were in the same
Country shepherds abiding
In the field keeping watch
Over their flock by night.

ANNIVERSARY STARS

Designed by Lauren Sauer
of Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches

Access Commodities
Accentuate
X 024 gold

Access Commodities
Bijoux
425 pyrite

The Thread Gatherer
Silk 'N Colors
○ 175 straw into gold (Smyrna cross stitch)

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 28-count midnight hand-painted linen from Crossed Wing Collection
Stitch count: 41H x 41W
Design size: 3" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of Accentuate.

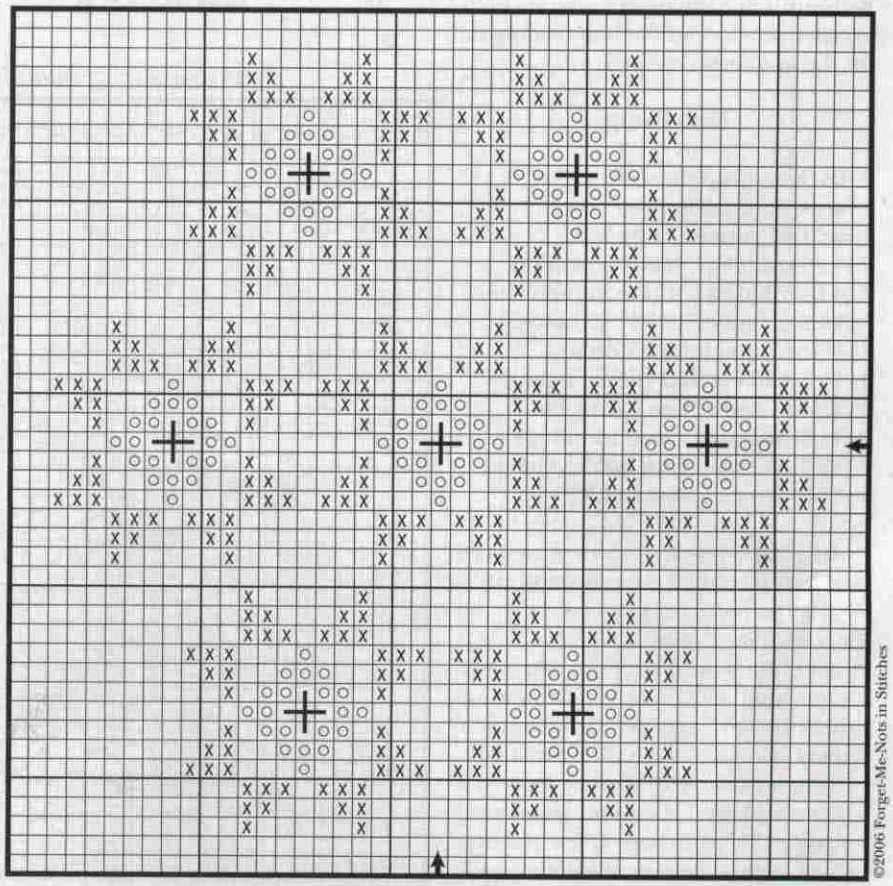
Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work upright cross stitch over four threads in center of each star motif, using one strand of Bijoux.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34.

(Photo is on page 25.)

Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches
Post Office Box 606077
Cleveland, OH 44106
e-mail: *laurenatfmnis@earthlink.net*
Web site:
www.forgetmenotsinstitches.com



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Anniversary Stars

Full Circle Designs

Lynda Watkins

Pictured above are the little faces that always lift my spirits if the rush of the holiday season gets me down. They don't look too worried, do they? On the right side sits Winston Fernando Gerome, and on the left is Jake. Have a "Joy Filled" holiday!

A big pot of soup is always a good menu choice when the weather is cold and you have lots of people to feed. Thanks to Beth and Ralph Whitworth, who are both excellent cooks and the best neighbors, for the wonderful recipe!

Taco Soup

2 lbs. lean ground beef
1 large onion, chopped
1 red bell pepper, chopped
2 (1.25-oz.) pkgs. taco seasoning
2 (4.5-oz.) cans chopped green chiles
1 (14.5-oz.) can Ro*tel® tomatoes
1 (15-oz.) can golden hominy
1 (15.5-oz.) can red kidney beans
1 (15-oz.) can whole-kernel corn
2 (14.5-oz.) cans diced tomatoes
1 (15.5-oz.) can black beans, rinsed
1 (14.5-oz.) can beef broth

In a large Dutch oven over medium heat on stovetop, brown ground beef. Pour off fat; add chopped onion. Cook for a couple of minutes and add bell pepper. Allow to cook for a few more minutes and add 1 pkg. taco seasoning. Add all canned vegetables, including their liquids, and beef broth. Bring to a boil, stirring occassionally. Reduce heat to a simmer and cover. Continue simmering for about 1 1/2–2 hours. A few minutes before serving, stir in remaining taco seasoning. Stir thoroughly.

Makes 8 servings.

MOONLIT JOY RIDE

Designed by Lynda Watkins
of Full Circle Designs

The Gentle Art
Sampler Threads™

@	0360	cranberry
◆	7005	old red paint
ℓ	0460	Grecian gold
/	7025	Shaker white
•	1140	oatmeal
○	0430	summer meadow
#	0120	pine
■	1040	black crow
♭	7007	cidermill brown
X	7028	grape leaf

Rainbow Gallery
Petite Treasure Braid

PB03		gold

Mill Hill Petite Seed Beads

☆	40557	gold

By Jupiter! Charms

★	80043AG	tiny antique gold star

Hillcreek Designs

200	ivory star button (4)

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 32-count rock quarry hand-dyed Belfast® linen from Silkweaver
Stitch count: 55H x 55W
Design size: 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or braid.

Work lazy-daisy stitch for bow loops, using one strand 1040.

Work straight stitch, using one strand of floss.

Work running stitch for border, using one strand 1040.

Attach beads, using one strand 0460 and a cross stitch.

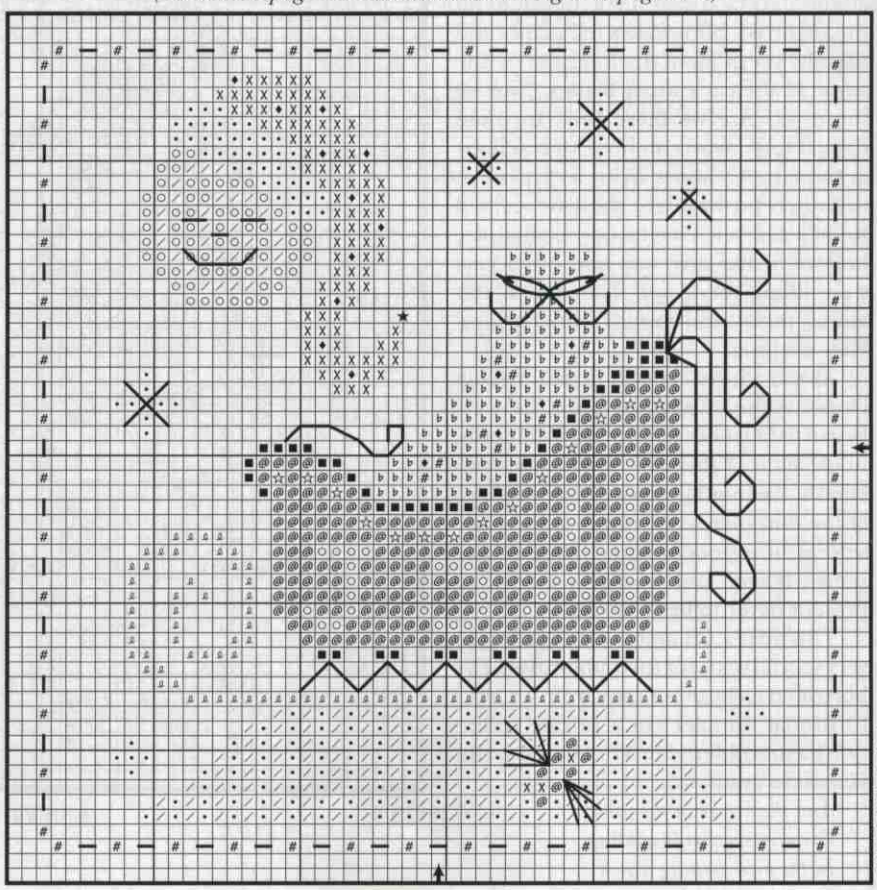
Attach star charm, using one strand 0460.

Attach one star button in each corner, using two strands 1140/3865.

Backstitch instructions:

1040	reins, remainder of bow
0460	moon's face
PB03	remainder of backstitch

(Photo is on page 29. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



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Moonlit Joy Ride

Straight-stitch instructions:

0120	flower leaves on hill
1040	zig-zag at bottom of sleigh
PB03	stars

Finishing instructions: Trim stitched piece to 1/2" from stitched border. Finger press 1/4" seam allowance to back. Blind stitch to pillow made from Weeks Dye Works™ 1334HT merlot wool. Pillow-ornament finishing instructions are on page 34.

Hanger was made using Rainbow Gallery BG3 Backgrounds.

Full Circle Designs
1313 Jamestown Drive
Tahlequah, OK 74464
e-mail: *email@fullcirclestitces.com*
Web site: *www.fullcirclestitches.com*

Gentle Pursuit Designs

Jaenn (Cissy) Bailey Smith

I am a middle child. My brother is two years older; my sister is two years younger. This 1956 photo was taken when we lived in Kingsville, Texas, and Dad was a Navy pilot. We would have been nine, seven, and five years old and were visiting Hoover Dam, Boulder City, Nevada, according to my mother's note. One of my middle-child responsibilities was to drag Skip and Kim out of bed by 4 a.m. each Christmas morning. The three of us would tiptoe to the Christmas tree, grope in the dark for the plug, and turn on the multicolored lights to see if Santa had come. We were hopeful and optimistic. We believed in magic.

My mother has been gone since 2000. She saved everything, and I recently came across a Christmas list I had written when I was a child. I bet I was driving her crazy, so she sat me down with the Sears toy catalog and a Santa-letter project. Here's how it read:

Dear Santa, I want a little washing misheen and a drying misheen and a ring with a red dimond in it and a china doll and frog feet (color brown, medium pair) dubble snorkel diving mask ornge plastic skin divers float a new swimming suit for a girl (pink and black) no 14 neekles cowgirl dress and red boots and a white hat and a rope and 2 guns with holsters handcuffs a playhouse with chairs and tables and beds and a black swimng cap (black) and a Dale Evens clock.

Skip, Kim, and I have experienced many of the joys and sorrows that living can bring over the past 50 or so years. We are still close and have held on to our childish optimism against all odds. The "Lion & Lamb" ornament celebrates the shield that protects all of us, the joy of Narnia's Aslan, and the hopeful possibilities of Dumbledore's "next great adventure." Merry Christmas blessings to you!

LION & LAMB ORNAMENT

Designed by Jaenn (Cissy) Bailey Smith of Gentle Pursuit Designs

Needlepoint Inc., Silk

• 877	moonlight pastel pink
# 843	Hellenic gold, med.
X 346	meadow green, dk.
▲ 186	bunny brown, dk.

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

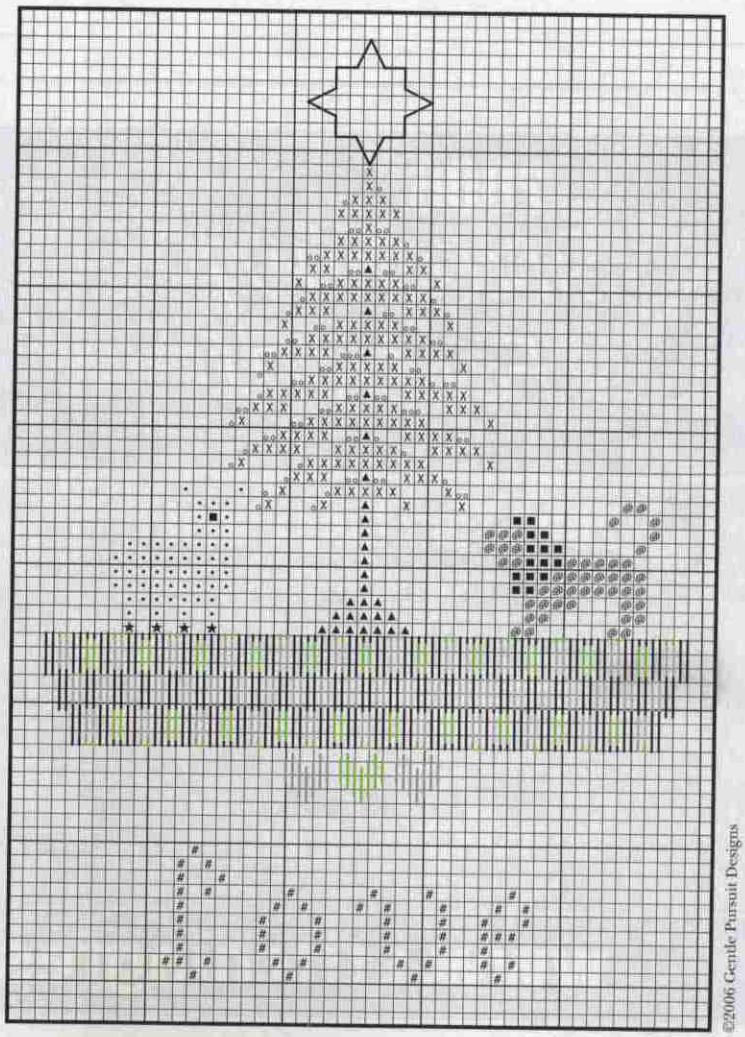
★ 7043	cinders
■ 7043	cinders (Smyrna cross stitch)
@ 7041	apple cider

Gloriana Threads Hand Dyed Silk Floss

ss 118	twilight blue

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

○ 001	silver (tent stitch)



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Lion & Lamb Ornament

Glory Bee

Nancy Boyarsky

What would Christmas morning be without a hearty breakfast to start the day? These were always my favorite pancakes. I remember my mother making these when my sister and I were little girls. It has become a tradition in our house to start every Christmas morning with these pancakes. I pass this recipe along to you and hope it begins a wonderful tradition in your home.

Merry Christmas!

Mom's Pancakes

2 eggs
3 c. milk
6 Tbsp. vegetable oil
3 c. all-purpose flour
4 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

Preheat griddle until very hot and brush with oil to grease.

In a medium bowl, beat eggs and milk together. Add 6 Tbsp. oil. In a separate bowl, mix remaining ingredients; add to wet ingredients, stirring well. Mix by hand, using a whisk.

Pour about 1/4 c. batter per pancake on griddle. Cook until bubbles appear on surface. Turn and brown the other side. Serve with Vermont pure maple syrup.

Makes about 24 pancakes.

Glory Bee
49 Pine Road
Ashby, MA 01431
e-mail: *nancy@glorybeestitch.com*
Web site: *www.glorybeestitch.com*

NOEL 2006

Designed by Nancy Boyarsky of Glory Bee

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

▲ 0140 blue spruce
& 0350 mulberry
✳ 0390 buckeye scarlet
0440 maple syrup

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

■ 7042 raven
. 7012 picket fence
X 7044 dungarees
○ 7017 buttermilk
★ 0311 holly berry

Just Another Button Company™

● 4485.S small primitive snowman
♥ 3422.S small new moon

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 30-count natural linen from Norden Crafts, Ltd.
Stitch count: 53H x 53W
Design size: 3 5/8" x 3 5/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

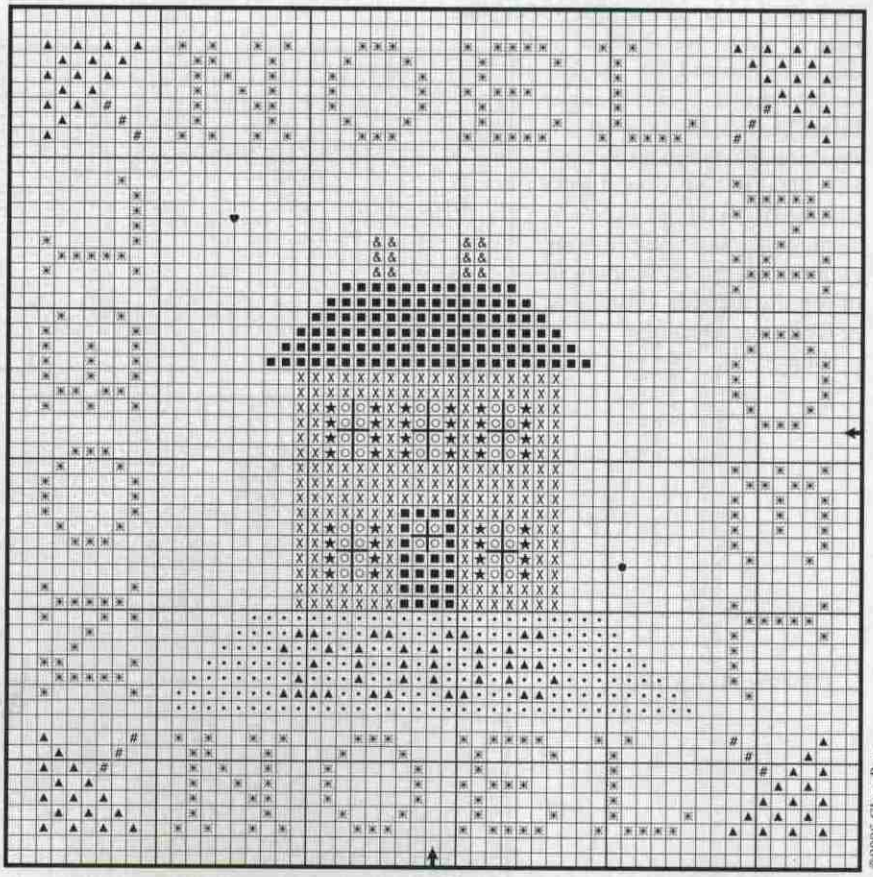
Backstitch over four threads for windows, using two strands 7042.

Attach buttons, using two strands of matching floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording was made using coordinating coton perlé #8. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

Finished by Lois Mouriski of Elegant Stitch

(Photo is on page 15.)



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Noel 2006

Hands to Work

Tracy Riffle

Christmas is such a fun time for me! One of my favorite memories from my childhood is what my brothers, sister, and I would do to each other before going down to open presents. My parents wouldn't allow us to get up before 8:00 a.m. That was just torture; but after staying up until the wee hours putting together toys from Santa for my own children, I learned why. If left to our own, we would have been up soon after Mom and Dad had gone to bed. So on Christmas morning, the first one of us to wake would throw slippers across the hall to wake up the others. Once we were all awake, we would sit in our doorways and discuss what we thought Santa had brought for us. That was almost more fun that actually opening the presents. The anticipation! I miss that feeling and hope to have it again with grandchildren as my children are grown. Wishing all of you the thrilling excitement of Christmas morning!

Enjoy!

(Photo is on page 18.)

REJOICE

Designed by Tracy Riffle of Hands to Work

Crescent Colours Hand-Dyed Floss

X roasted chestnut
@ cupid
B Tennessee red clay
■ balsam fir
○ dulce de leche

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

• 1151 pebble

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 40-count charcoal linen from Lakeside Linens

Stitch count: 42H x 59W (*angel motif*)
17H x 59W (*Rejoice*)

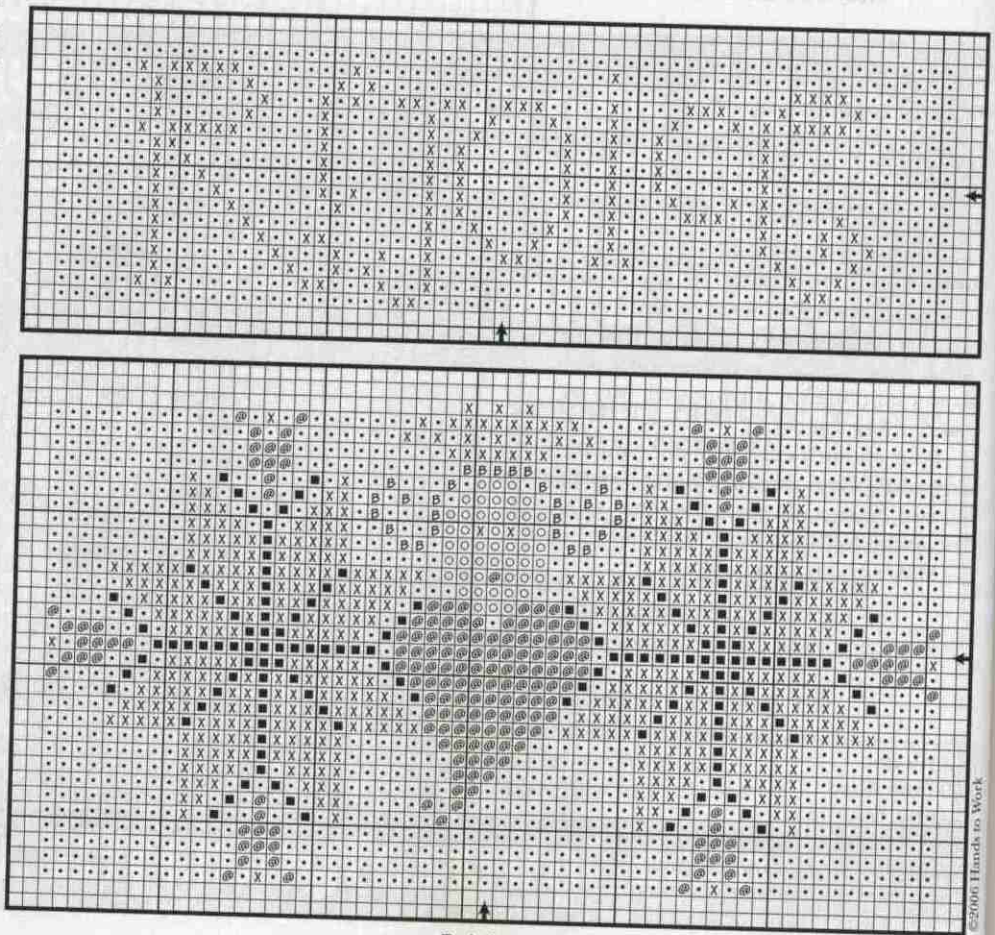
Design size: $2\frac{1}{8}$" x 3" (*angel motif*)
$\frac{7}{8}$" x 3" (*Rejoice*)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Leave at least 1" between two designs on fabric.

Finishing instructions: Trim to within $\frac{1}{2}$" of stitching on all sides of both stitched pieces. Using stitched pieces as templates, cut out two pieces Weeks Dye Works™ 1333 Lancaster red wool. Finger press seam allowances to wrong side along edge of stitching. Center stitched piece atop corresponding piece of wool and blind stitch in place, stuffing lightly with polyester fiberfill.

Hanger and linking threads between sections were made by stringing Mill Hill 02041 seed beads onto two strands of floss. For looped trim at bottom of ornament, string beads onto a 12" length of floss. Starting at one bottom corner, twist strand of beads into loops, tacking to bottom of stitched piece at top of each loop. Continue across bottom until opposite corner is reached.

Hands to Work
203 Camellia Court
Stephens City, VA 22655
e-mail: *riffletracy@aol.com*
Web site:
www.handstoworkdesigns.com



Rejoice

©2006 Hands to Work

HeartStrings/The Artists Collection

Pat Thode

This is a recipe I made up after making an Irish Cream Cake featured in *Cooking with Paula Deen*, which Hoffman publishes. All of my favorite things in one place.

Irish Cream Sandwich Cookies

1 c. butter, softened
1/2 c. brown sugar
1/4 c. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. instant espresso coffee granules, dissolved in 1 tsp. warm water
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 egg
2 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1/2 c. toasted sliced almonds, coarsely chopped
Additional sugar

Frosting:

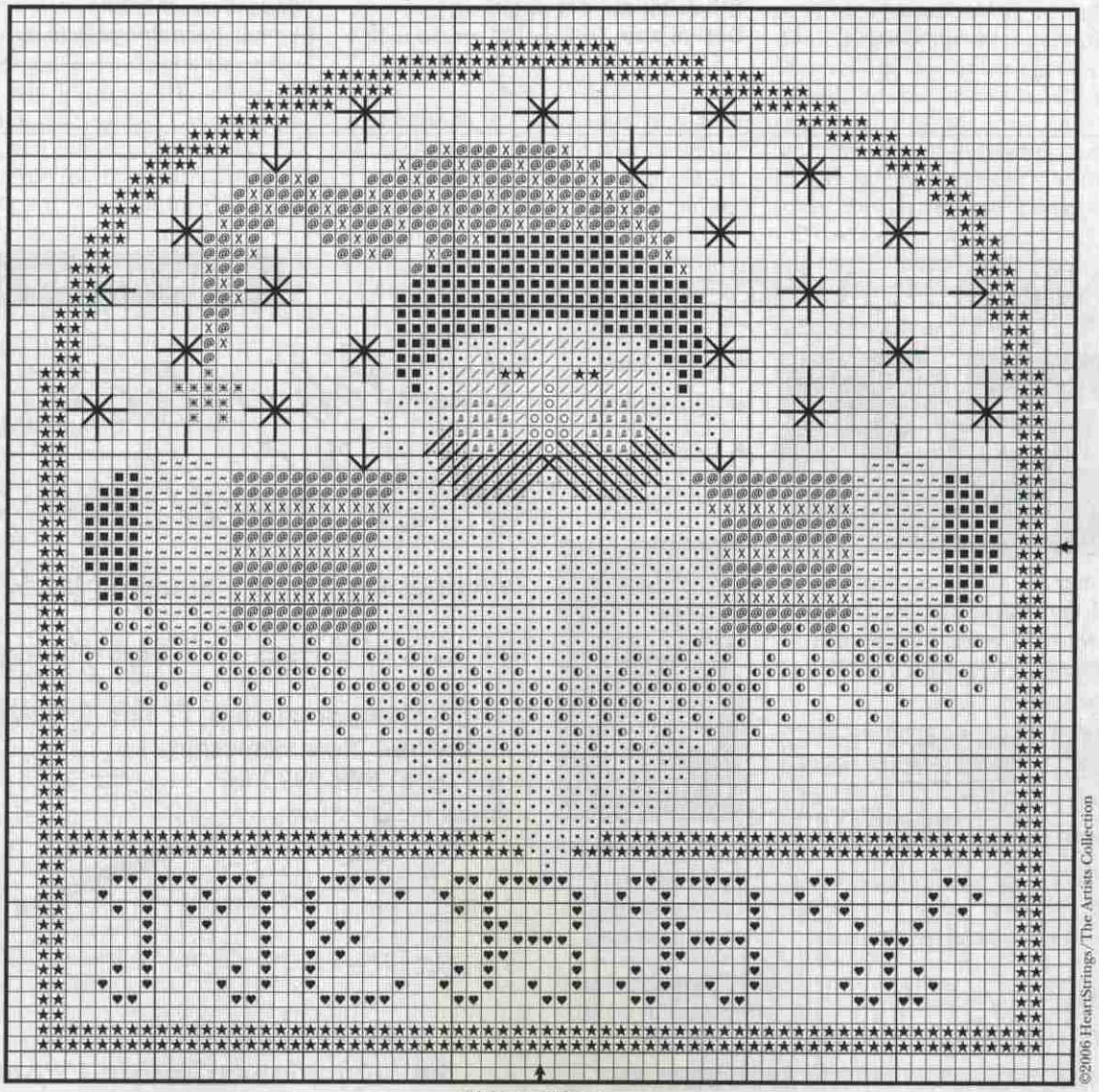
1/2 c. butter, softened
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. instant espresso coffee granules, dissolved in 1 tsp. warm water
1 tsp. vanilla extract
3 Tbsp. Irish liqueur
3 c. powdered sugar, sifted

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter, sugars, salt, espresso, and vanilla until well mixed and creamy for cookies. Add egg and beat until well incorporated. Add flour, 1/3 at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add almonds and mix well. Shape dough into balls, using a rounded teaspoonful. Place on lightly greased baking sheets about 2" apart and press flat with a glass dipped in sugar. (They should be no more than 1/4" high.) Bake for 12–14 minutes, turning pan around at halfway point. Cool on racks until room temperature.

Meanwhile, in another mixing bowl, beat butter, salt, espresso, and vanilla until smooth and creamy for frosting. Add 1

(Photo is on page 29. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



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"Merry" Santa

Tbsp. liqueur and 1 c. powdered sugar at a time and beat until smooth. (Mixture will be soft but not runny. You may have to adjust the amount of powdered sugar to get the right consistency.)

Frost one side of half the cookies with frosting and top each with a second cookie. Enjoy!

"MERRY" SANTA

Designed by Pat Thode
of HeartStrings/The Artists Collection

DMC® Anchor®

■	310	403	black
X	3363	262	pine green, med.
ℓ	3688	75	mauve, med.
○	3773	1008	desert sand, med.
/	3774	778	desert sand, vy. lt.
✳	3852	306	straw, vy. dk.

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

★	1040	black crow
@	0330	cherry wine

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

~	7007	cidermill brown

Crescent Colours Hand-Dyed Floss

◐		spinach

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

♥	031	crimson
	032	pearl

Rainbow Gallery Wisper

•	W88	white

Just Another Button Company™

4523	stocking
2284.S	small poinsettia
4423.S	small red mitten

Fabric: 5" x 6" piece 32-count cream Zweigart® Belfast® linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 68H x 68W
Design size: $4^1/_4$" x $4^1/_4$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of Wisper or very fine braid.

Work straight stitch for Santa's moustache, using one strand W88.

Work modified star stitch over ten threads, using one strand 032.

Referring to photo on page 29 for placement, attach buttons to garland, using two strands 0330.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Trim and hanger were made using jute cording and three 5cm glass beads. Looped ends of hanger were secured by wrapping one strand 0330 around joint and securing with a drop of glue.

HeartStrings/The Artists Collection
2128 Grand Boulevard
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
e-mail: *heartstrings@cfu.net*

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Homespun Elegance Ltd.

Sandra Sullivan

We will be celebrating Christmas this year with our new daughter-in-law, Ashley. She and our son, Cameron, were married on May 21st on a cruise ship before it left Miami for the Caribbean. We are so pleased to have her in our family. The above photo, taken the night of the engagement party, shows our new extended family. Pictured from left to right are Ashley's parents (Rosemary and Earl McKnight), Ashley, Cameron, me, Lehmer, and our daughter Hollis. She and Cameron have very similar tastes in food, which is very nice for them. One of the things that they mutually love is mushrooms. For the engagement party Lehmer and I hosted for them, I made this fabulous—and I don't mean that lightly—mushroom spread. Serve with seasoned, toasted baguette slices.

Mushroom Spread

4 slices bacon
8 oz. fresh mushrooms, chopped
1/2 c. grated onion
1 clove garlic, minced
2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. ground black pepper
1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
2 tsp. Worchestershire sauce
1 tsp. soy sauce
1/2 c. sour cream

In a large skillet over medium heat on stovetop, cook bacon until crisp; drain, reserving 2 Tbsp. drippings. Crumble bacon and set aside. (You can also chop bacon in a food processor.)

In the same skillet over medium heat on stovetop, combine reserved drippings with mushrooms, onion, and garlic. Cook until tender and most of the liquid has evaporated. (Do not burn garlic.) Stir in flour, salt, and pepper. Add cream cheese, Worchestershire sauce, and soy sauce. Stir until cheese is melted. Add sour cream and bacon pieces. Heat thoroughly, but do not allow to boil. Serve in a dish that can be kept warm.

CHRISTMAS WELCOME

Designed by Sandra Sullivan
of Homespun Elegance Ltd.

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss

○	1223	Schneckley
■	3860	crimson
X	2159	seaweed

DMC® Anchor®

3371	382	black-brown

Fabric: Prefinished 32-count cream linen pointed pillow from Olde Colonial Designs for Homespun Elegance
Stitch count: 18H x 27W
Design size: 1 1/8" x 1 5/8"

Instructions: Center design with four threads between bottom edge of design and bottom edge of linen triangle. Work design on each linen triangle, moving counterclockwise around pillow. Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work vertical satin stitch where heavy lines appear on pineapple, using three strands 1223.

Work straight stitch for birds' beak and legs, using one strand 3371/382.

Finishing instructions: Cut two 5 1/2" lengths of 3/8"-wide crimson ribbon. Turn under raw edge of ribbon, and tack in place at one corner of pillow. Extend ribbon diagonally across pillow to opposite corner; trim excess, turn raw edge under, and tack in place. Repeat for remaining corners. Tack four corner points of pillow to center on top of ribbons.

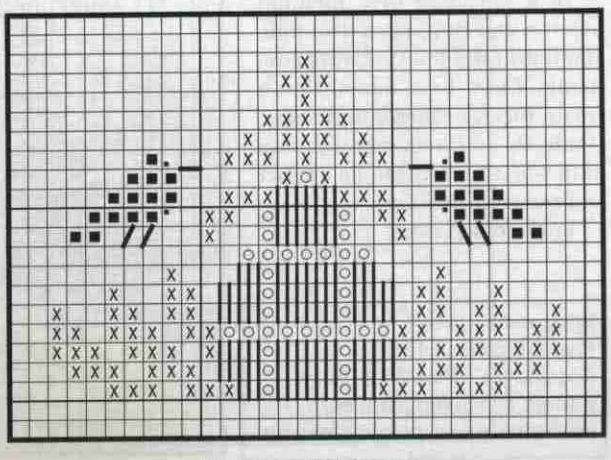
Using coordinating sewing thread or floss, sew a button to center of pillow front and back, passing needle through all layers of pillow and through buttons, pulling tightly to create a tufted appearance. [Model uses an Olde Brass "Pineapple" button (#PNA) from Homespun Elegance on pillow front and an Amber Pearl button (#APB) from Homespun Elegance on back.]

Trim and hanger were made from approximately 4 yds. of 3/8"-wide crimson ribbon. Divide ribbon into one 96" length and one 48" length. Cut two 18" lengths of sewing or quilting thread; knot together at one end and thread opposite end onto a sharp needle. Using 1/4"-long running stitches, sew down the center of 96" length of ribbon, sliding ribbon down length of thread to create gathers. When all ribbon has been gathered onto thread, knot remaining end. Pin ruffle to ornament edge, adjusting gathers to fit. Starting at top-right corner, tack ruffle to back side of ornament, 1/8" from side seam. (Do not attach over seam, or ruffle will cover edges of design.)

Create a second length of gathered ribbon with remaining 48" length of ribbon and two 10" lengths of thread. Tack ends of ruffle to top corners of ornament to create hanger.

Homespun Elegance Ltd.
11047 Pierson Drive, Suite I
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
e-mail: *stitching@homespunelegance.com*
Web site: *www.homespunelegance.com*

(Photo is on page 14. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



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Christmas Welcome

Imaginating, Inc.

Diane Arthurs

This cake is absolutely delicious!

Favorite Pistachio Cake

1 (18.25-oz.) box yellow cake mix
½ c. water
½ c. milk
½ c. oil
5 eggs
2 (3-oz.) pkgs. instant pistachio pudding mix (Reserve 3 Tbsp. mix for frosting.)

Frosting:
1 c. milk
4 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 c. margarine or butter
1 c. sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
3 Tbsp. reserved instant pistachio pudding mix

Preheat oven to 300°. Grease and flour a 13" x 9" baking pan; set aside.

In a mixing bowl, combine all cake ingredients. Mix well, but do not over mix. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake for 50–60 minutes. Cool completely in pan before frosting.

In a saucepan over medium heat on stovetop, cook 1 c. milk and flour until thick, stirring constantly. Cool. In a mixing bowl, cream together butter and sugar. Gradually add milk mixture; mix until smooth. Add vanilla extract and reserved pudding mix.

Frost cooled cake.

Imaginating, Inc.
Post Office Box 156
Rootstown, OH 44272
e-mail: *imag8ing@aol.com*
Web site: *www.imaginating.com*

ST. NICK

Designed by Diane Arthurs of Imaginating, Inc.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
.	blanc	2	white
X	321	47	red
¢	704	256	chartreuse, bt.
a	725	305	topaz, med. lt.
♥	814	45	garnet, dk.
/	950	4146	desert sand, lt.
▲	986	246	forest green, vy. dk.
g	3023	899	brown-gray, lt.
■	3371	382	black-brown
○	3716	25	dusty rose, vy. lt.
△	3863	378	mocha beige, med.

Just Another Button Company™
. 3314.L star buttons (4)

Fabric: 9" x 8" piece 14-count white Aida from Charles Craft, Inc. (*St. Nick*); 3" x 3" piece 14-count white perforated paper from Yarn Tree (*stocking*)
Stitch count: 57H x 70W (*St. Nick*)
16H x 24W (*stocking*)
Design size: $5\frac{3}{8}$" x $4\frac{1}{2}$" (*St. Nick*)
$1\frac{3}{4}$" x $1\frac{1}{4}$" (*stocking*)

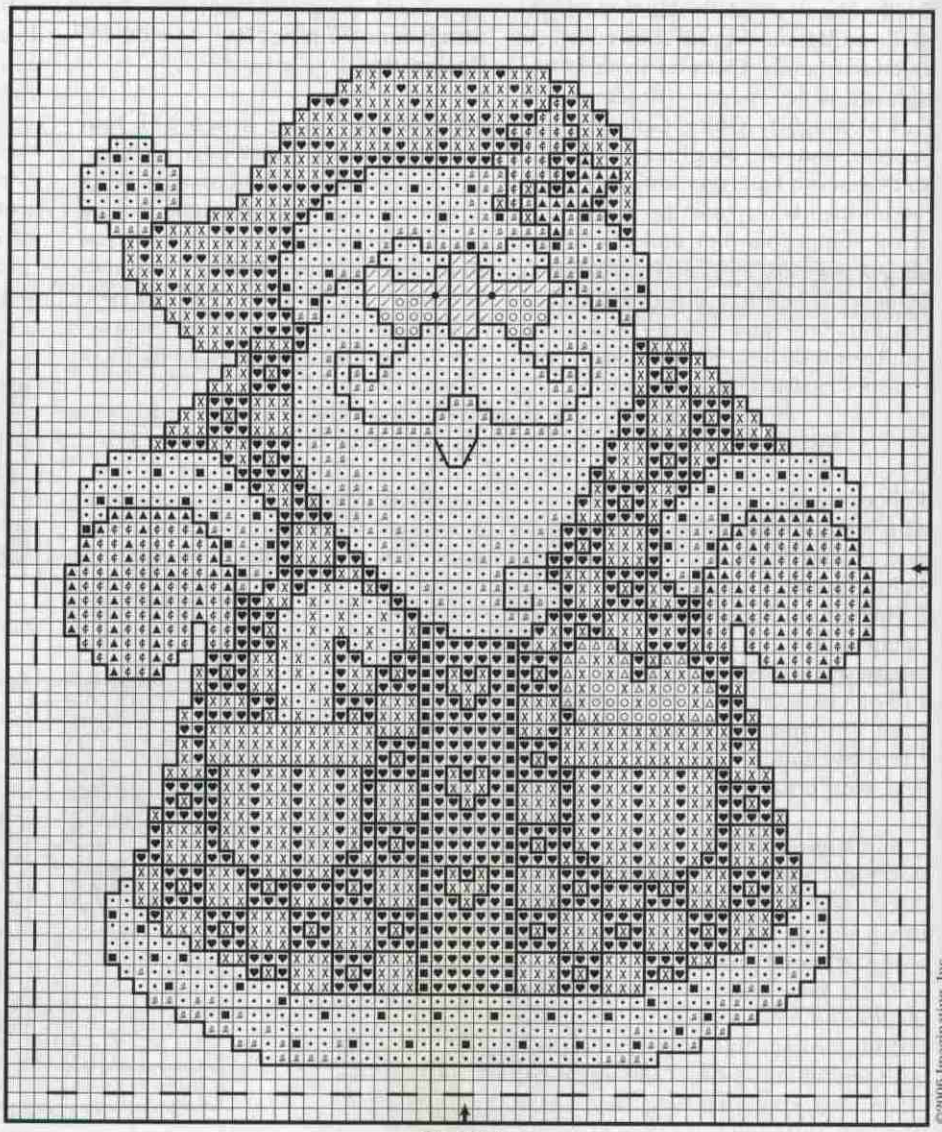
Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square, using one strand 3371/382.

Work French knots where • appears for Santa's eyes, using one strand 3371/382 and wrapping twice around needle.

(**NOTE**: Running-stitch border over two squares will be worked during finishing process, using two strands 321/47.)

(Photo is on page 29. Additional stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



St. Nick

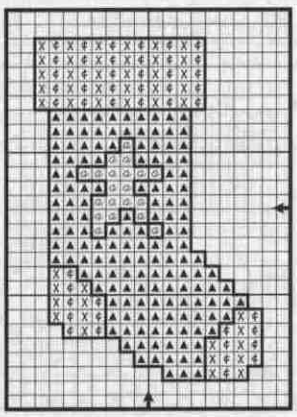
©2006 Imaginating, Inc.

Finishing instructions: Trim stitched piece to within six Aida squares of stitched design. Trim stocking to one square from stitched design. Using St. Nick stitched piece as template, cut out one piece of quilting batting slightly larger than fabric. Cut out a piece of black felt 1" larger than St. Nick stitched piece.

Layer batting between St. Nick stitched piece and felt. Pin layers together. Work running-stitch border as indicated on chart, sewing through all thicknesses. Trim as necessary, using pinking shears for felt. Sew one Just Another Button Company 3314L star button in each corner, using two strands coordinating floss.

Knot ends of a 6" length of jute rope. Tack knotted ends of rope to Santa's mittens, using two strands of coordinating floss. Attach stocking to rope, using two wooden 1" clothespins (available at craft stores).

To make hanger, twist a 12" length of 22-gauge wire around a pencil several times, leaving ends straight. Insert ends through all three layers of fabric, fold back by 1", and twist together to secure.



Stocking

JBW Designs

Judy Whitman

Sending out Christmas cards in October may seem a bit extreme, but that is exactly what I did last year! You'll soon understand the reasons for my early mailing as I share my Christmas memories with you.

My nephew Ben and his wife Rebecca, who live in Gulfport, Mississippi, lost everything they owned as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The whole family gathered together furniture and household items to get them back on their feet again. I was particularly worried about their holidays and had a moment of inspiration when I thought of a plan to help them out. I wrote to each person on our Christmas-card list, asking them to choose one ornament from their collection or a new ornament to be sent to me by the end of November. I also asked them to include a note of inspiration for Ben and Rebecca.

After Thanksgiving dinner, the whole family participated in the gift wrapping. We assembled 25 boxes and numbered each one—just as you would for an advent calendar. They would have one box to open each day in December. We also sent them an artificial tree, which was delivered the first day of the month to hold all of their new ornaments!

The response was truly amazing and heartwarming. Over 200 ornaments were donated, and many of them represented the areas of the country from which they were sent. Ben and Rebecca were thrilled with the surprise and touched by the response of so many strangers.

You, too, can make a difference in someone's life—sometimes it just takes some planning! Merry Christmas from our family to yours.

JBW Designs
9118 Highlandview Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
Web site: *www.jbwdesigns.com*

PEACE ON EARTH

Designed by Judy Whitman of JBW Designs

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

■	0932	dungarees
X	0390	buckeye scarlet
bs	0120	pine

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

B	7006	old blue paint
$	7003	shutter green

DMC® Anchor®

.	B5200	1	snow white

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 29-count natural Glenshee linen from The Heart's Content

Stitch count: 39H x 39W
Design size: $2\frac{3}{4}$" x $2\frac{3}{4}$"

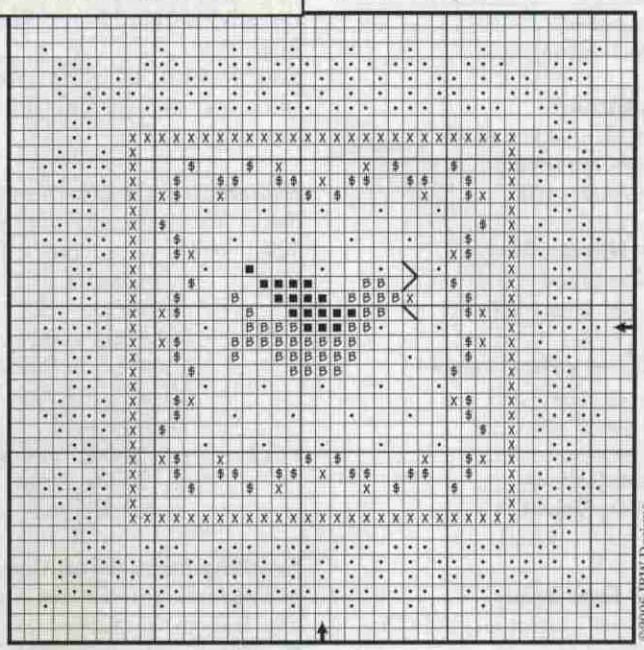
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch (bs) over two threads, using one strand 0120.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording was made using DMC® 895, 498, and B5200 six-strand embroidery floss. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

Finished by Mona Bost

(Photo is on page 27.)



Peace on Earth

Jeannette Douglas Designs

Jeannette Douglas

The Four Candles

Four candles slowly burned. The first candle said, "I am Peace! The world is full of anger and fighting, and no one can keep me lit." The flame of Peace went out completely. Then the second candle said, "I am Faith! I am no longer indispensable. It doesn't make sense that I stay lit another moment." A breeze softly blew out Faith's flame. Sadly, the third candle began to speak: "I am Love! People don't understand my importance so they simply put me aside. They even forget to love those nearest them. I haven't the strength to stay lit." And waiting no longer, Love's flame went out.

Suddenly, a child entered the room and saw the three unlit candles. "Why aren't you burning? You are supposed to stay lit to the end." Saying this, the child began crying. The fourth candle answered, "Don't be afraid. While I am burning, we can still light the other candles." With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

HOPE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Designed by Jeannette Douglas of Jeannette Douglas Designs

DMC® Anchor®

550	101	violet, ul. dk.
☆ 729	890	old gold, med.
002 Kreinik® BF		gold

Needle Necessities Floss Overdyed

@ 195	coronation

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

bs 026V	purple
bs 002J	gold

Rainbow Gallery Petite Very Velvet

bs V627	purple

Mill Hill Seed Beads

○ 02011	victorian gold (15)

Mill Hill Antique Seed Beads

■ 03053	purple passion (40)

Fabric: 10" x 6" piece 28-count gold/cream megallic Lugana® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 54H x 28W
Design size: 3 7/8" x 2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear, using one strand of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Attach beads, using one strand of coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Special instructions:

Area 1—Work Bargello stitch, using one strand 026V (black lines), one strand 195 (gray lines), one strand each 729/890 and 002 BF (yellow lines), and one strand 002J (orange lines). Work black lines first before working inner stitches.

Area 2—Backstitch over two threads, working all stitches indicated by black lines before working stitches indicated by gray lines.

Area 4—Work Norwich stitch over seven threads, using two strands 195 (black lines) and one strand 002J (gray lines).

Area 6—Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads where large ✳ appears, using one strand 002J.

Area 7—Work tied Scotch stitch over four threads, using one strand 195 (black lines) and one strand 002J (gray lines).

Area 8—Backstitch over two threads, working black lines first.

Area 9—Work long-arm cross stitch over two threads, using two strands 195.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

550	101	Area 3 lettering
729	890	Area 3 rays
026V		Area 8 black lines
002J		Area 2 gray lines, Area 5 flames and rays, Area 8 gray lines
V627		Area 2 black lines, Area 6 black lines

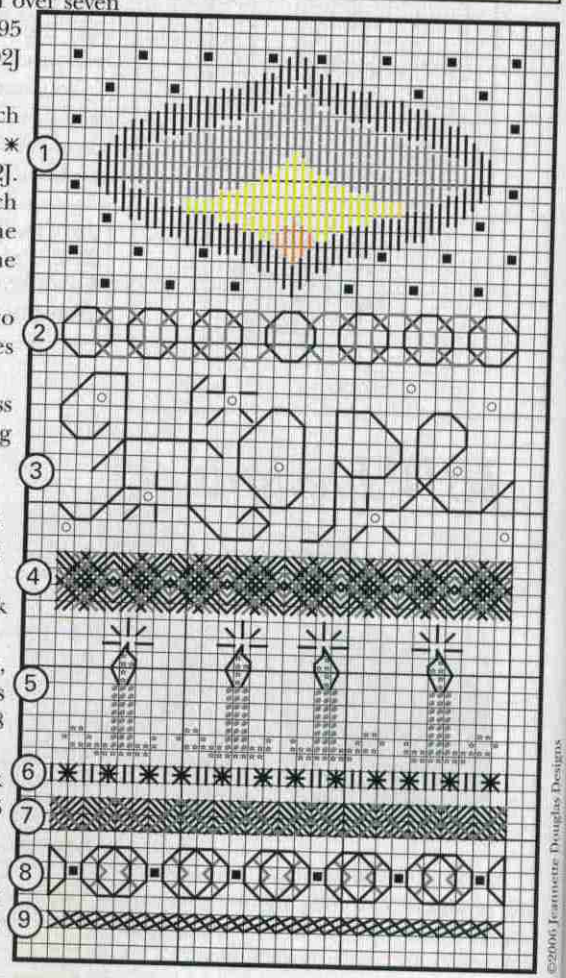
Finishing instructions: Count out 24 fabric threads from top and bottom of stitched area. Remove three horizontal fabric threads. Count out an additional 24 threads from withdrawn thread areas and remove three additional horizontal fabric threads. Measure 3/4" from withdrawn areas at top and bottom of stitched piece and trim fabric. Fold 3/4" area under twice to withdrawn area. Work hemstitch to secure hem, using one strand 195.

With wrong sides together and using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew seam down back of piece. Trim seam allowance to 1/4". Turn right-side out.

Weave a length of 5/8"-wide violet organza ribbon through withdrawn areas adjacent to bottom of stitched design and tie in a bow. Stuff firmly with polyfill. Insert braid or ribbon into top opening for hanger. Weave and tie top of needleroll ornament with a length of ribbon as before.

(Photo is on page 25. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

Jeannette Douglas Designs
708 Coach Bluff Crescent South West
Calgary, Alberta T3H 1A8
Canada
e-mail: *jendouglas@shaw.ca*
Web site: *www.jeannettedouglas.com*



Hope Christmas Ornament

©2006 Jeannette Douglas Designs

Jemini Designs

Jeanette Rees

Christmastime is for family and friends, far and near. This year has brought a new path for us—moving from the Florida beaches to the North Carolina mountains for retirement. This recipe came from a friend in Alaska.

Upside-Down Christmas Cake

1 c. brown sugar
½ c. butter
1 (20-oz.) can pineapple slices, drained
1 (10-oz.) jar maraschino cherries
1 (18.25-oz.) box yellow cake mix, batter prepared according to manufacturer's instructions
Mint sprigs for garnish (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a large iron skillet over medium heat on stovetop, melt sugar and butter together. Layer pineapple slices over melted sugar mixture. Cut extra slices to fit around edges of pan. Fill pineapple centers with cherries. Pour cake-mix batter over pineapple, spreading evenly.

Bake for 40–45 minutes, or until golden in color. Cake should spring back when gently pressed with fingertip.

Let stand on wire rack for 5 minutes to cool slightly. Loosen cake with spatula. Place serving platter over cake and turn skillet upside down.

Garnish with a few fresh mint leaves for a holiday look.

(Photo is on page 21. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

Jemini Designs
246 Serenity Pointe Drive
Murphy, NC 28906
e-mail: *jeminidesign@aol.com*

PEPPERMINT NICK

Designed by Jeanette Rees of Jemini Designs

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™
@ 1050 soot

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
■ 3910 mascara
• 4125 snowflake
W88 RG Wisper white

DMC® Rayon
30310 black
30742 tangerine, lt.

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count crystal glacier Zweigart® Jazlyn® from Picture This Plus
Stitch count: 59H x 43W
Design size: 4 1/4" x 3 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work long stitch for beak, using one strand of floss.

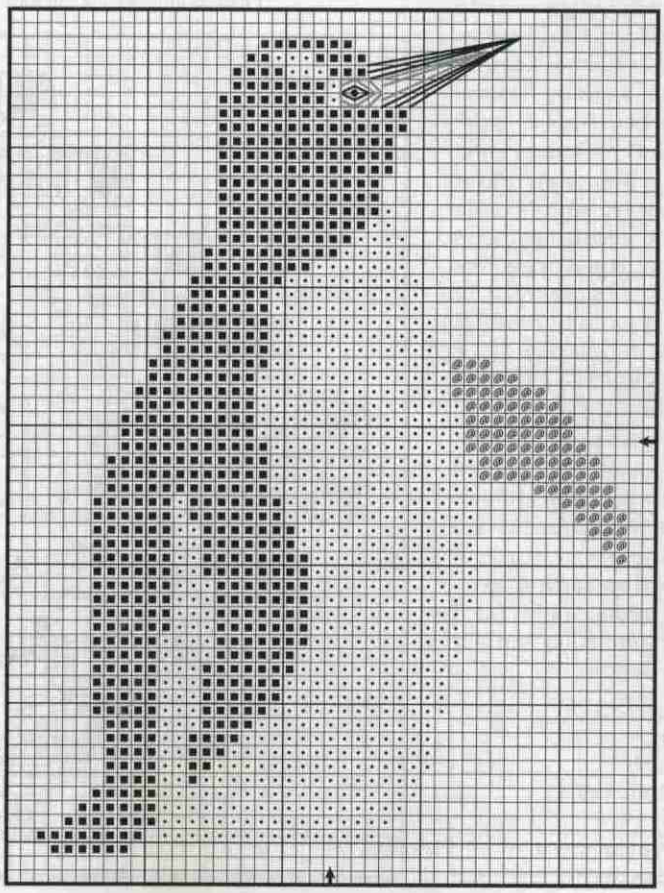
Work French knot where • appears for eye, using one strand 3910 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Backstitch instructions:
3910 black lines in eye
4125 gray lines in eye

Long-stitch instructions:
30310 black lines in beak
30742 gray lines in beak

Finishing materials and instructions:
One card each Rainbow Gallery FZ15 and FZ18 Fuzzy Stuff
One Just Another Button Company™ 440c candy cane button
4" length 1/16"-wide green satin ribbon
Two 2" x 3" pieces black ultrasuede
Rainbow Gallery AR3 white Arctic Rays (optional)

For scarf, make an 8" length of twisted cording from FZ15 and FZ18.* Fold in half; place folded edge on right side of neck and tack down both thicknesses of cording to neck area. When left side is reached, tie a half knot with cording and secure with a tacking stitch. Knot both ends of scarf and trim away any excess. Add additional tacking stitches, if desired.



Peppermint Nick

Tack button to penguin's left wing using 4" length of satin ribbon. Tie excess ribbon in a bow and trim tails to desired length.

Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using AR3 and 4125.*

Using template, cut out two sets of feet. Glue together. Attach to bottom of ornament between cording and fabric with several tacking stitches.

**Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34.*

©2006 Jemini Designs

Julia Lucas Designs

Julia Lucas

After catching my mother's little tabby cat delicately chewing off all the ornaments from a pre-decorated miniature Christmas tree last year, I thought back to the pets of my childhood and how each of them had "celebrated" Christmas.

When I was about five years old, Flopsy, a large marmalade Persian, and Pipsqueak, a nervous little grey cat, lived with us in an uneasy truce. But the stress of the holiday season must have gotten to them because a night time squabble turned into a full scale, Christmas-tree climbing fight. We awoke in the wee hours to the crash of the tree and found the two snarling cats in the middle of pine boughs, broken glass, crushed parcels, flying fur, and tinsel! From that year on, my father tied the tree to a curtain rod above and a hook in the wall behind with heavy rope. If they climbed again, we never knew.

In subsequent years, we learned a lot of other pet-friendly Christmas tips. Keep the water in the tree stand covered, to avoid "evaporation" (read drinking). Never hang anything breakable within reach of small paws. Anything hanging on low branches will end up batted across the room, so leave that area undecorated, or tie things on tightly. Parcels with strings or ribbons tend to be dragged across the room where the bows can be pulled into impossible knots. Gifts of catnip are ill advised for obvious reasons. And never, ever leave gifts of chocolates or food under the tree with small dogs around! And on Christmas morning, the fur-clad "children" need their gifts opened first, or there will be no peace on Earth at all!

I wish everyone a wonderful, joy-filled Christmas, and may your happy and silly memories continue to grow.

Julia Lucas Designs
11 Cobham Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M4A 1V7
Canada
e-mail: *jalucas@sympatico.ca*

JOY

Designed by Julia Lucas
of Julia Lucas Designs

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #8

○ 032		pearl
238		Christmas

DMC® Anchor®

bs 367	216	pistachio green, dk.

DMC® Coton Perlé #5

blanc	white

Mill Hill Seed Beads

● 00165	Christmas red

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count antique white Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 38H x 38W
Design size: $2^{3}/_{4}$" x $2^{3}/_{4}$"

Instructions: Work Kloster blocks, using one strand of coton perlé.

Work buttonhole stitch around outside edge, using one strand of coton perlé.

Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads where large ✳ appears, using one strand of very fine braid.

Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand 032.

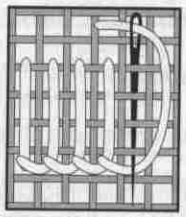
Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or very fine braid.

Attach beads, using one of strand coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Backstitch instructions:

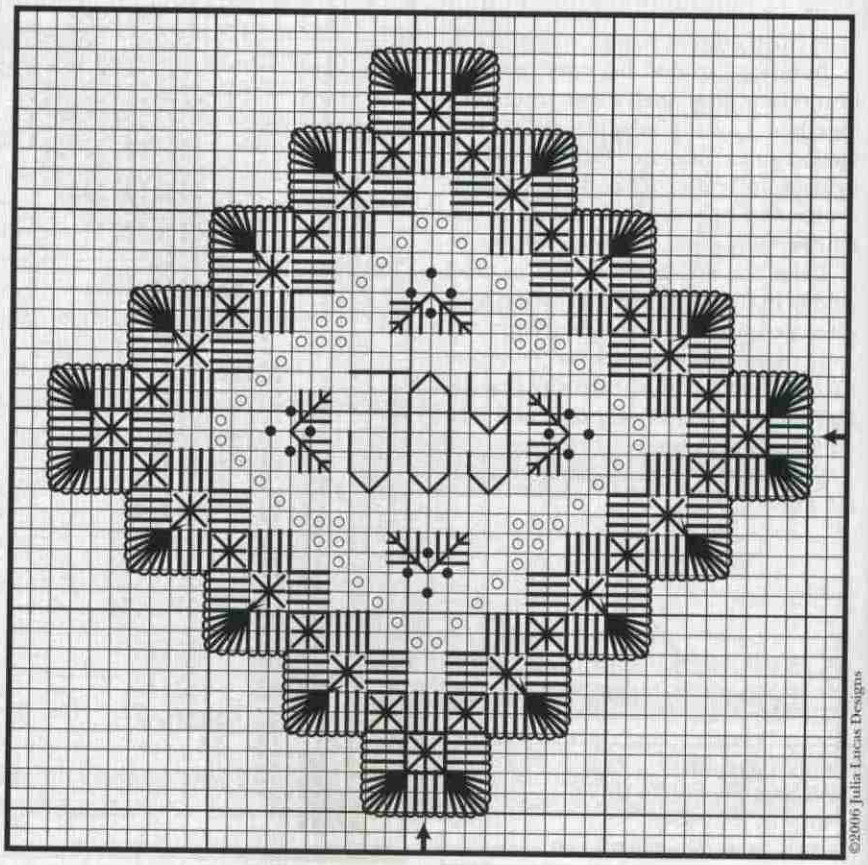
367	216	leaves
238		lettering

Finishing instructions: Carefully cut away fabric beyond buttonhole-stitch edge. Cut a piece of fusible interfacing slightly smaller than stitched piece. Cut a piece of felt slightly larger than stitched design. Center stitched piece atop felt and, following manufacturer's instructions, fuse interfacing to join layers together. Hanger was made using one strand 238.



Buttonhole Stitch

(Photo is on page 13. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



©2006 Julia Lucas Designs

Joy

Kitty & Me Designs

Pamela Kellogg

This is one of my favorite Christmas cookie recipes. My mom has been making these since I was little, and I love them. They melt in your mouth!

Double-Chocolate Cookies

⅔ c. sugar
½ c. natural unsweetened cocoa powder
2 c. all-purpose flour
½ tsp. salt
1¼ c. butter, softened
2 tsp. vanilla extract
2 c. chopped walnuts
1 (12-oz.) pkg. chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a mixing bowl, mix sugar, cocoa, flour, and salt. In a separate bowl, combine butter and vanilla extract. Gradually add dry ingredients to butter. Add nuts and chocolate chips.

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto parchment-lined baking sheeets. Bake for 8–10 minutes.

TOP HAT

Designed by Pamela Kellogg
of Kitty & Me Designs

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
M	317	400	pewter gray
◑	318	235	steel gray, lt.
?	413	236	pewter gray, dk.
♡	414	235	steel gray, dk.
X	597	1064	turquoise
ℓ	598	1062	turquoise, lt.
▲	601	63	cranberry, dk.
#	602	57	cranberry, med.
♭	603	62	cranberry
∞	604	55	cranberry, lt.
/	605	1094	cranberry, vy. lt.
~	747	158	sky blue, vy. lt.
@	3799	236	pewter gray, vy. dk.
★	3809	1066	turquoise, vy. dk.
£	3810	1066	turquoise, dk.
a	3811	1060	turquoise, vy. lt.
¥	3853	1001	autumn gold, dk.
☆	3854	313	autumn gold, med.
+	3855	311	autumn gold, lt.
•	blanc	2	white
	032 Kreinik® BF		pearl
○	3756	1037	baby blue, ul. vy. lt.
	032 Kreinik® BF		pearl
✳	775	128	baby blue, vy. lt.
	032 Kreinik® BF		pearl
bs	3808	1068	turquoise, ul. vy. dk.

Mill Hill Glass Treasure

12038	medium snowflake, gold

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count vintage blue dynasty linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 70H x 66W
Design size: 5" x 4¾"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use two strands of each.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Attach treasure to hat, using two strands 3855 and referring to photo on page 17 for placement.

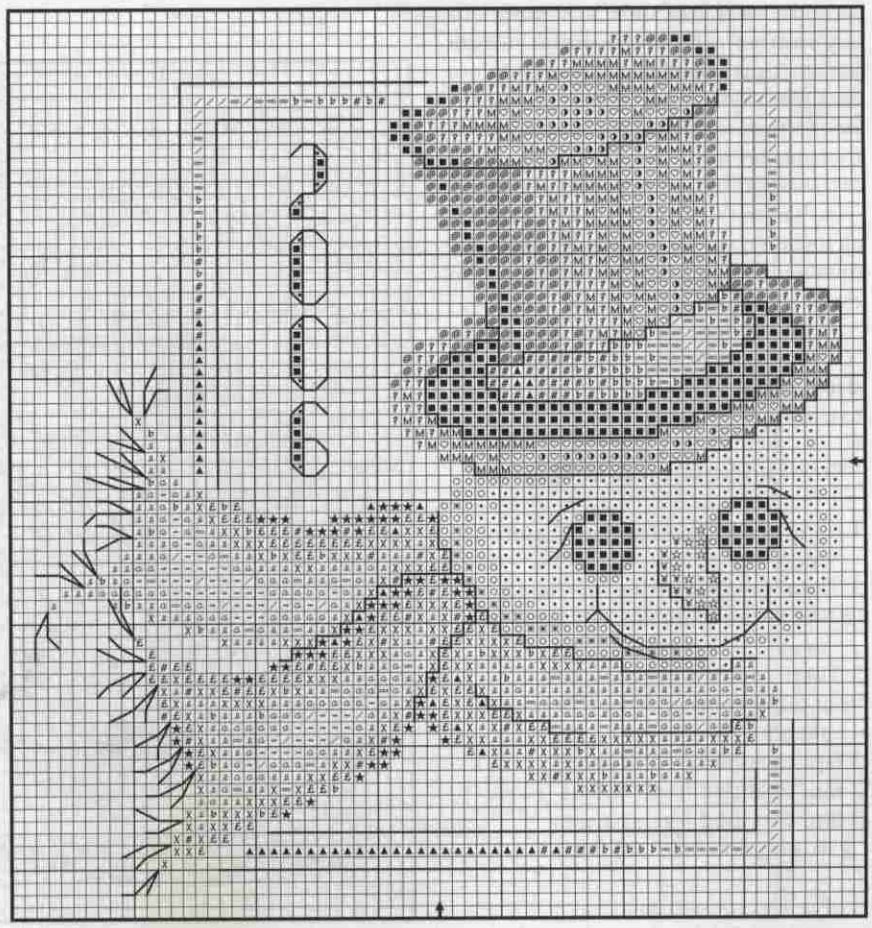
Backstitch (bs) instructions:

310	403	hat, eyes, eyebrows, mouth, date
601	63	border, scarf fringe, hat band
3853	1001	nose
3808	1068	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Ornament was finished with purchased piping and ruffled lace. Hanger was made using three lengths of coordinating ribbon.

Kitty & Me Designs
Post Office Box 24
Ringwood, IL 60072-0024
e-mail: *pamkellogg@kittyandme.com*
Web site: *www.kittyandme.com*

(Photo is on page 17. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Top Hat

©2006 Kitty & Me Designs

Knotted Tree NeedleArt

Jamie Beam

When I look back on all my past holidays, my childhood Christmas memories stick out as the most joyous. Family came from all over the state to my grandparents' farm or my aunt and uncle's house; and a huge brood of cousins would spend Christmas Eve sledding, playing board games, putting on family talent shows, and figuring out how to stay up as long as humanly possible.

Our family believes that everyone is a kid at Christmastime, so we all have a stocking to hang for Santa to fill—even my Grandpa and Grandma Megy! It's quite a sight Christmas morn to see all those stockings hung up in a row stuffed to the brim with wonderful surprises. There are 26 little second cousins now, and it is a momentous day when you get your stocking. It's almost become a rite of passage. My cousin Monica and I like to joke that you haven't officially married into the family until you have your homemade Christmas sock! The first round of cousins are older now with families of our own. We aren't able to celebrate Christmas all together, but we have the pictures and the memories of a charmed childhood to carry us through.

This ornament celebrates all the "Christmas kids" out there spending a sleepless Christmas Eve waiting for Santa to come!

Smoked Salmon Artichoke Dip

1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
3 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 tsp. white wine Worchestershire sauce
3 Tbsp. minced red bell pepper
1/3 c. plain canned artichoke hearts, sliced
3 tsp. chopped fresh basil
3 tsp. chopped fresh chives
3 tsp. chopped fresh parsley
1/4 lb. smoked salmon, flaked

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a mixing bowl, combine cheeses, Worchestershire sauce, bell pepper, and artichoke hearts; mix well. Gently fold in fresh herbs and smoked salmon. Spread in an 8"x8" pan. Bake until heated through.

Serve hot with white corn tortilla chips or pita bread wedges.

A MERRY STOCKING

Designed by Jamie Beam
of Knotted Tree NeedleArt

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 30-count friendship blue linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 65H x 65W
Design size: 4 1/3" x 4 1/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work vertical and horizontal satin stitch (ss) where lines appear on stocking, using two strands 994.

Attach buttons, using two strands of coordinating floss.

Finishing instructions:

Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim was made using DMC® 783, The Caron Collection 065 Watercolours, and The Thread Gatherer 178 Silk'n Colors. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34. Hanger was made using 5/8"-wide ribbon.

Needlepoint Inc., Silk DMC®

○	135	783	creamy yellow, vy. dk
@	948	3685	antique carnation pink, dk.
■	438	3818	peacock green, vy. dk.
•	991b	blanc	white
X	426	701	holly green, dk.

The Thread Gatherer Silk'n Colors

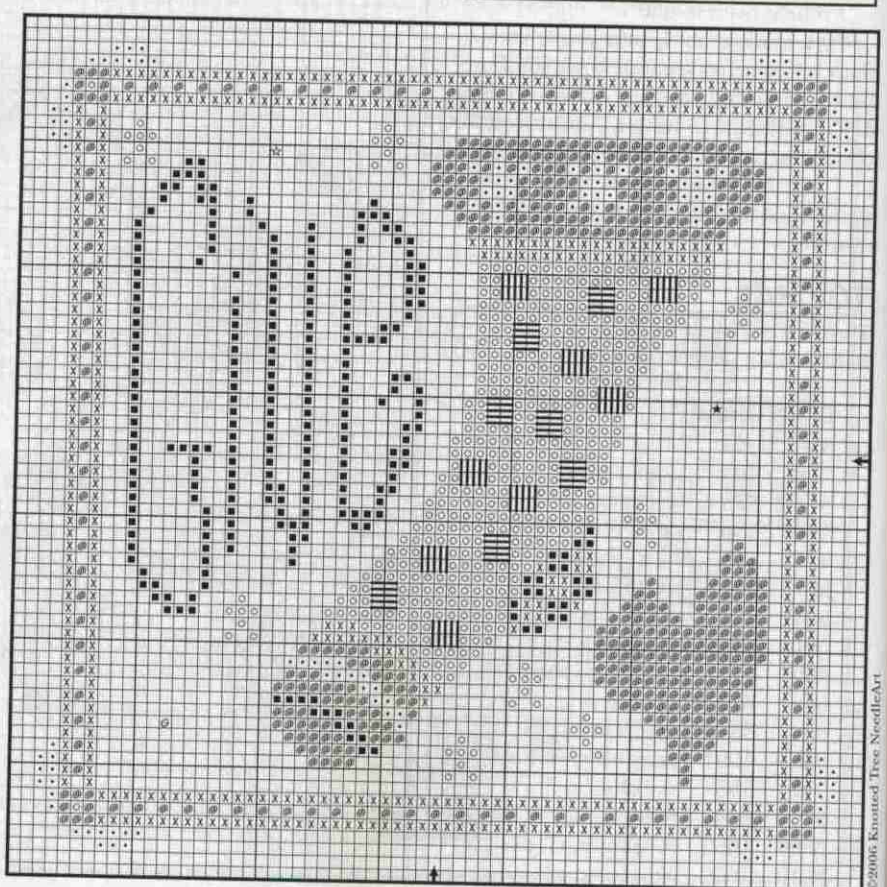
ss	994	kaleidoscope

Just Another Button Company™

☆	3315.S	small apricot star
★	3315.L	large apricot star
G	4456.S	small red gift

(Photo is on page 23. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

Knotted Tree NeedleArt
13608 South East 145th Avenue
Clackamas, OR 97015
e-mail: *treeknot@pacifier.com*
Web site: *www.knottedtree.com*



A Merry Stocking

©2006 Knotted Tree NeedleArt

La-D-Da

Lori Markovic

The sight of a "daddy" or "mommy" cardinal in winter is truly beautiful. I make suet cakes and add them to the branches around the feeder to tempt the birds as much as possible. If you don't have time to make treats for the birds, please take a moment to provide store-bought suet or seeds. In the winter, they depend on our kindness. It's become a tradition to have the grandchildren help make bird treats and learn the joy of giving.

Suet Cake Recipe

1 part peanut butter
2 parts birdseed
5 parts cornmeal
1 part beef suet (lard), softened

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Press mixture into paper-lined muffin tins. Store suet cakes in the refrigerator up to 2 weeks; in the freezer until needed.

When ready to use, thread florist wire (without the paper) through the cakes and twist the ends together to form a loop. Then hang them on tree branches and let the bird watching begin!

(Photo is on page 20.)

La-D-Da
1226 Cleveland Avenue
Racine, WI 53405
e-mail: *lorimarkovic@hotmail.com*

CHRISTMAS CARDINAL

Designed by Lori Markovic of La-D-Da

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

■ 1050 soot

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

7039 bayberry
. 7032 aged pewter
X 7000 harvest basket

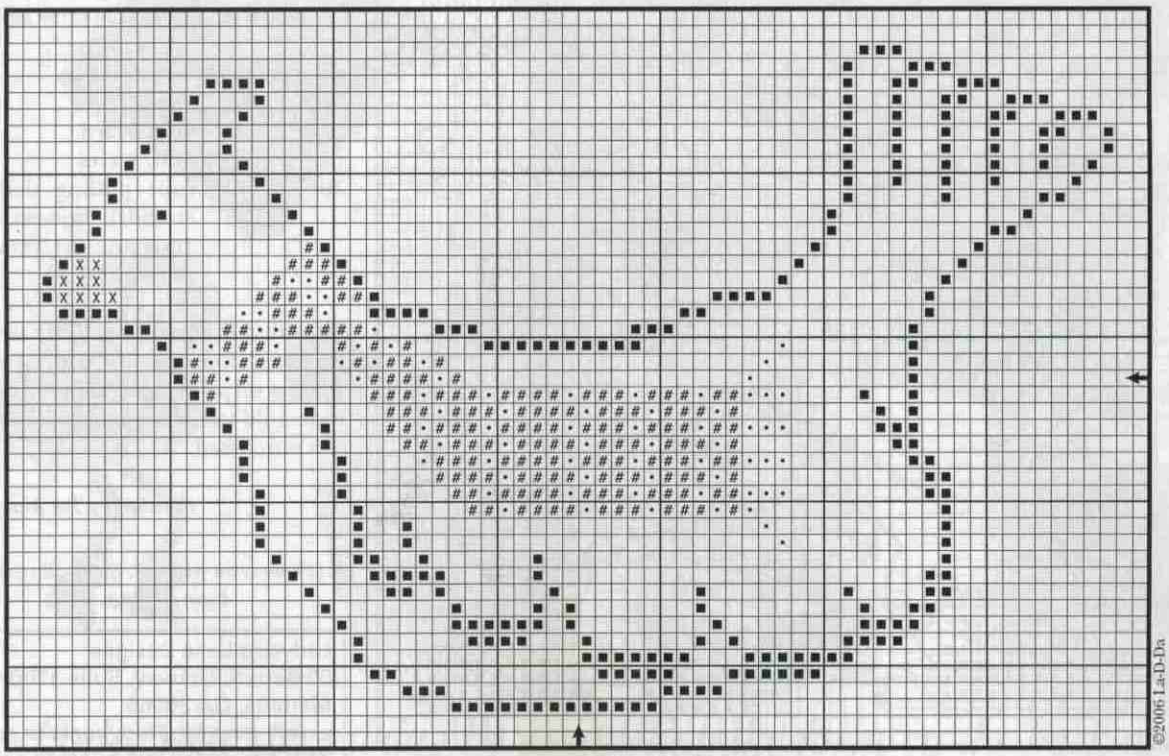
Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 30-count cranberry bog linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 41H x 66W
Design size: $2^{3}/_{4}$" x $4^{1}/_{2}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34, sewing close to outer stitches to retain cardinal shape.

Bird's feet were made using a 3", six-strand length of 1050, inserted into seam along bottom side of bird, and emerging 12 threads ($^{3}/_{8}$") away. Slip one Crafts Etc! IL-091 antique nickel bead onto each cut end of floss and knot to secure bead.

Hanger was made using a 6", six-strand length of 1050, threaded through an antique nickel bead.



Christmas Cardinal

Ladybug Lane Designs

Jennifer Cooke-Rabig

My grandson, John John, is pictured at six months of age. (He's two now!) I think he makes the perfect Santa.

This recipe is one we always enjoy.

Yummy Yams

3 c. mashed cooked sweet potatoes
1 c. sugar
2 eggs
4 Tbsp. butter, melted
1 tsp. vanilla extract

TOPPING:

1 c. brown sugar
1 c. self-rising flour
1/3 c. butter, melted
1 c. chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a large mixing bowl, combine first five ingredients; mix well, using hand mixer. Pour in oven-safe casserole dish. Bake for about 20 mintues. Remove and add topping. Return to oven and bake, until topping is brown (about 10 minutes). Enjoy!

SANTA'S SURPRISE

Designed by Jennifer Cooke-Rabig of Ladybug Lane Designs

DMC® Anchor®

~	422	372	hazelnut, lt.
○	962	75	dusty rose, med.
/	963	23	dusty rose, ul. vy. lt.
♀	3326	36	rose, lt.
☆	[677	361	old gold, vy. lt.
	002 Kreinik®BF		gold
.	B5200	1	snow white
+	[B5200	1	snow white
	W88 RG Wisper		white
bs	3790	904	beige-gray, ul. dk.

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

bs	210	gold dust

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

@	1279	holly
■	3910	mascara
★	3910	mascara (Smyrna cross stitch)

Crescent Colours Hand-Dyed Floss

X		cupid
✳		bejeweled

Mill Hill Antique Seed Beads

◆	03048	cinnamon red

Mill Hill Petite Seed Beads

•	42011	Victorian gold

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 32-count Queen Anne's lace hand-dyed Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 52H x 51W
Design size: 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work double herringbone stitch where heavy lines appear for white band of Santa's hat, using one strand B5200/1.

Attach beads, using one strand of coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

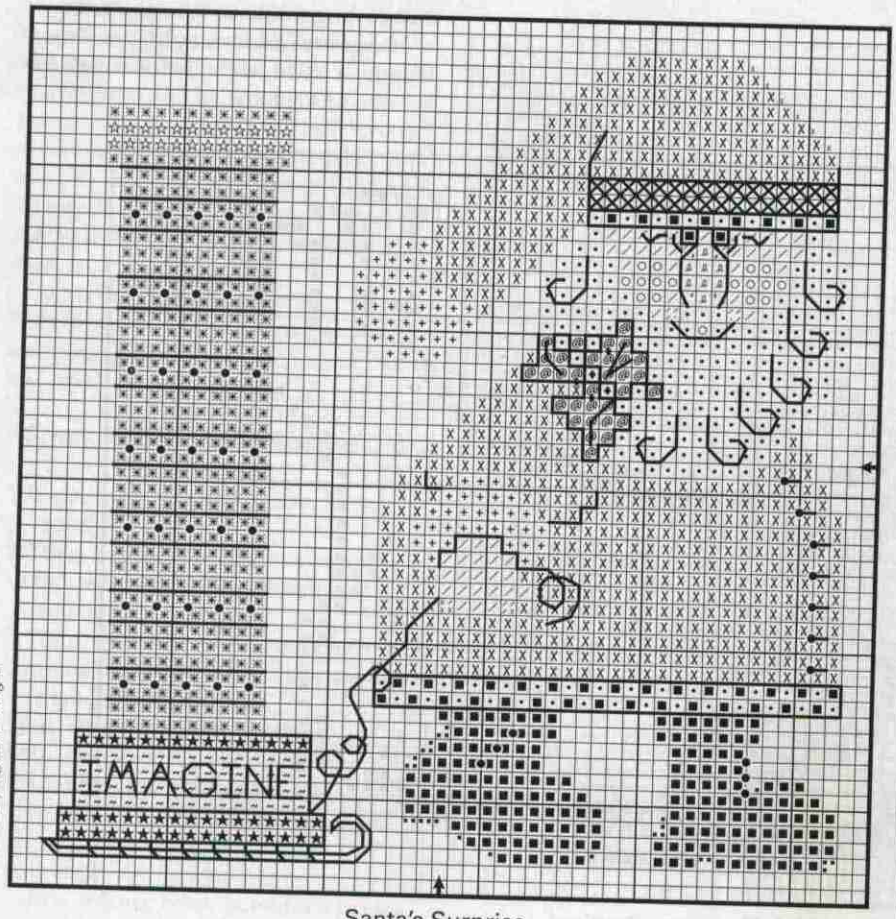
Backstitch instructions:

210		lines on gift
3790	904	face, beard
677	002	holly leaves
3910		rope pulling sled, (two strands), bottom of suit (two strands), remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Bow on present was made using 4mm-wide gold-trimmed cream ribbon. Trim was purchased.

Finished by Tia Mary Slogar

(Photo is on page 28. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Santa's Surprise

©2006 Ladybug Lane Designs

Ladybug Lane Designs
50 Barrett Parkway, Suite 1200 #208
Marietta, GA 30066
e-mail: *jennifer@ladybuglane.com*
Web site: *www.ladybuglane.com*

Little By Little Design Co.

Cynthia Daly Bradford

Bradford Farms has a pecan grove. This year, we had a bumper crop. So for a quick treat, my sweet father-in-law taught me how to toast pecans in the microwave. They are so yummy! You can't eat just one!

Merry Christmas, y'all! Have a happy new year!

Microwave-Toasted Pecans

½ c. pecans
1 Tbsp. olive oil
Garlic salt to taste

In a bowl, combine all ingredients. Stir to coat pecans. Place pecans on microwave-safe plate. Microwave on High (100 percent power) for 5 minutes; stir pecans and microwave for 3 more minutes.

Carefully remove from microwave and enjoy!

WINTER JOY

Designed by Cynthia Daly Bradford of Little By Little Design Co.

DMC®	Anchor®	
# 732	281	olive green
@ 838	1088	beige-brown, vy. dk.
B 869	375	hazelnut brown, vy. dk.
■ 937	268	avocado green, med.
♥ 3777	1015	terra-cotta, vy. dk.
• blanc	2	white

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™	
X 0130	avocado
ℓ 0420	gold leaf

Fabric: 7" x 5" piece 35-count blue moon java linen and 7" x 6" piece dark espresso linen, both from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 58H x 29W (Panel A)
58H x 45W (Panel B)
Design size: 3 1/8" x 1 2/8" (Panel A)
3 1/8" x 2 5/8" (Panel B)

Instructions: Center and stitch Panel A (left) on blue moon java linen and Panel B (right) on dark espresso linen.

Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

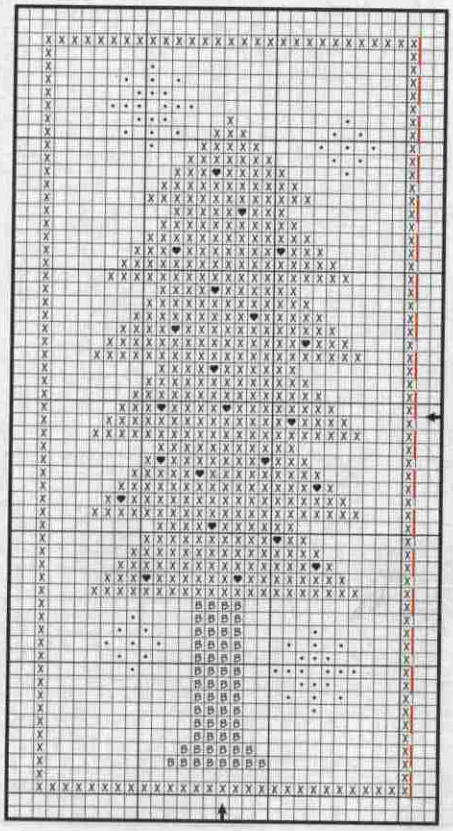
Backstitch over two threads to outline star in Panel B, using one strand 869/375.

Finishing instructions: Place Panels A and B with right sides together, aligning right side of Panel A and left side of Panel B. Using one strand of coordinating sewing thread, sew together where dashed red lines appear on chart. Trim seam allowance to 1/4" and press open.

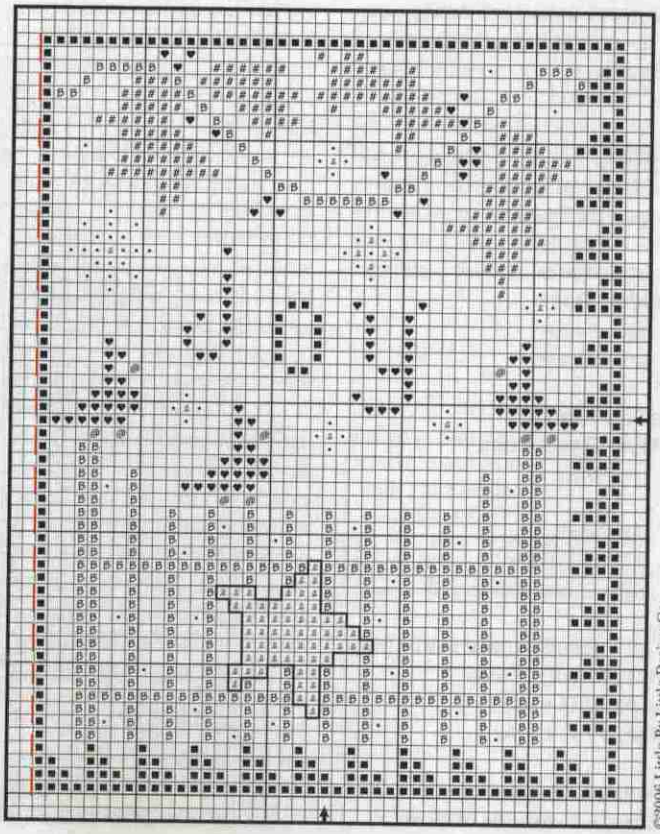
Refer to pillow-finishing instructions on page 34. Pillow backing and 5/8"-wide gusset were made using Weeks Dye Works™ 1334 merlot wool. Twisted-cording hanger was made using coordinating pearl cotton. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

Little By Little Design Co.
14610 Huntersville-Concord Road
Huntersville, NC 28078
e-mail: *cdaly4692@aol.com*
Web site: *littlebylittledesigns.com*

(Photo is on page 15.)



Winter Joy (Panel A)



Winter Joy (Panel B)

©2006 Little By Little Design Co.

Little House Needleworks

Diane Williams

In the winter months, our home is decorated with pine, apples, pears, and berries and scented with the rich smells of cinnamon and vanilla.

This year's ornament pouch is a reflection of my personal taste in seasonal decorating. You can purchase ready-made potpourri to fill it or make your own. In years past, I have purchased cinnamon-scented oils and sprinkled them over dried pinecones, pine needles, and berries. Left in a sealed plastic bag for two weeks, the oil absorbs into the dried materials, making a nicely scented filler around dried or artificial fruit. One word of caution: protect your stitched pouch from seeping scented oil by placing your potpourri in a liner before inserting it into the bag.

PEAR TREE

Designed by Diane Williams
of Little House Needleworks

Crescent Colours Hand-Dyed Floss

○	sassy brass
X	Joshua tree

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

@ 2237	hazelnut

DMC® Anchor®

■ 869	375	hazelnut brown, vy. dk.
✳ 918	341	red copper, dk.

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 28-count river willow linen from Lakeside Linens
Stitch count: 65H x 45W
Design size: $4^{5}/_{8}$" x $3^{1}/_{4}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing materials and instructions:
6" x 10" piece Weeks Dye Works™ 1228 pecan wool
One skein Crescent Colours bramble bush pearl cotton
Polyester fiberfill or potpourri
13mm gold button

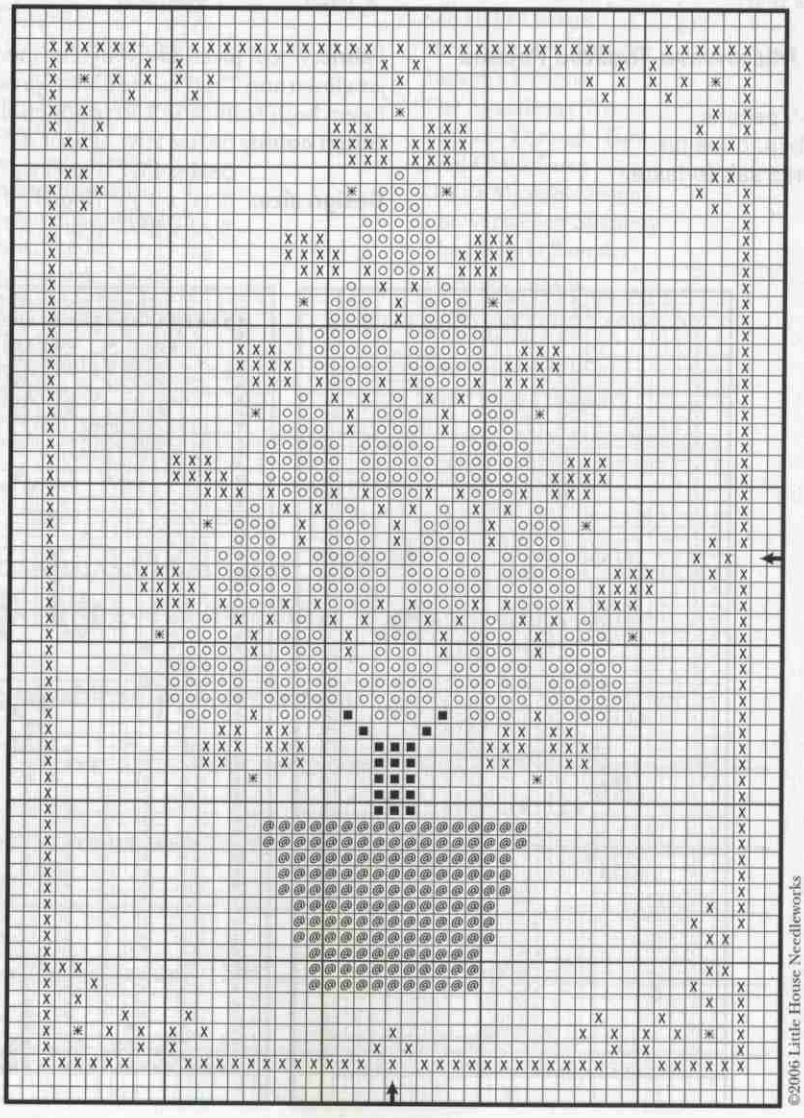
Trim stitched piece to $^{3}/_{4}$" from stitched border. Using stitched piece as template, cut out two pieces of wool. Fingerpress seam allowance of stitched piece to wrong side, leaving four fabric threads visible between stitched border and fold. Blind stitch stitched piece to one wool piece.

Place wool pieces together, with stitched piece facing out. Using one strand of pearl cotton and a blanket stitch, sew sides and bottom of wool pieces together. Stuff lightly with fiberfill or potpourri and continue sewing wool pieces together across top.

Twisted-cording hanger was made using pearl cotton and secured to top of ornament with button. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

(Photo is on page 11.)

Little House Needleworks
3321 West Cinnamon Drive
Tucson, AZ 85741
e-mail:
littlehouseneedleworks@msn.com
Web site:
www.littlehouseneedleworks.com



Pear Tree

©2006 Little House Needleworks

Lizzie*Kate, Inc.

Linda Ebright

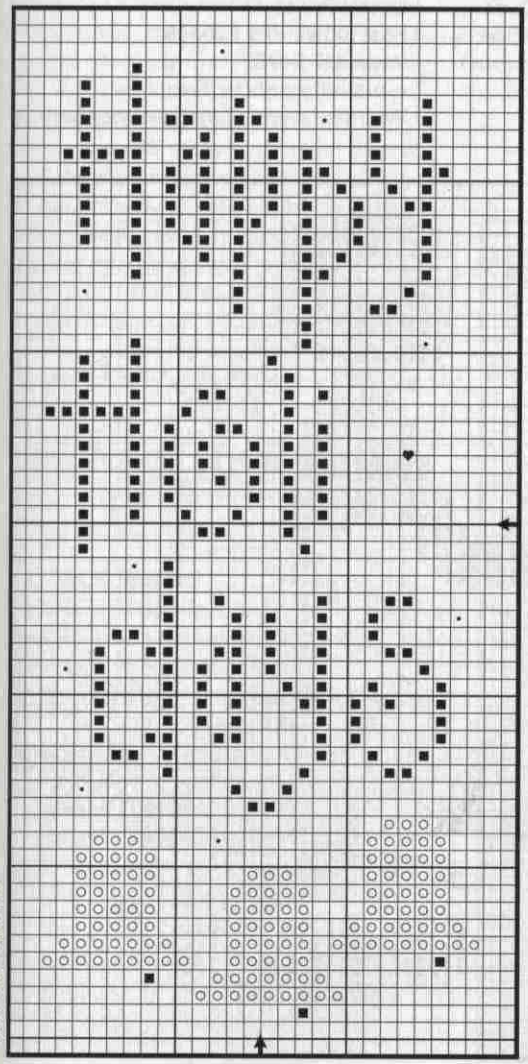
I have always loved gingerbread cookies! For me, gingerbread is that perfect combination of flavors—not-too-sweet and semi-spicy—so you can eat tons of it! When my girls were younger, we had fun baking gingerbread men and adorning them with red cinnamon candy buttons. Here is an updated version of a gingerbread favorite. If you haven't baked biscotti, give this recipe a try. Biscotti isn't difficult, just a little time-consuming. Have your stitching nearby, so you can stitch during the baking times. The yummy, crunchy results are well worth the effort!

GINGERBREAD BISCOTTI

1/4 c. butter or margarine
3/4 c. brown sugar
2 eggs
1/4 c. molasses
2 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/8 tsp. salt
1 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 c. slivered almonds or pecans
1 c. raisins (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large mixing bowl, beat together butter and sugar with an electric mixer at medium speed. Beat in eggs, then blend in molasses. Add flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and spices. Blend until smooth. Stir in nuts and raisins. Divide dough in half in bowl and turn onto a floured board (dough will be sticky). **(NOTE:** Biscotti dough is very sticky, so this is the only tricky part. You can coat your hands with nonstick spray to help in shaping the logs. I coat the dough with a light dusting of flour before working with it to make it easier to handle.) Shape each half into a log about 3" wide and 1" high. Place side by side on a large baking sheet, at least 2" apart. Bake logs for 35–40 minutes, or until wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from oven.

Lower oven temperature to 300°. Cool logs for 10 minutes on baking sheet, then transfer to a cutting board. With a serrated knife (electric knife works really well), cut each log into 3/4" diagonal slices. Place slices cut-side down on baking sheet and return to oven to toast. Remove after 10 minutes and flip all of the cookies over. Toast for an additional 10 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool.



Happy Holidays

©2006 Lizzie*Kate, Inc.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Designed by Linda Ebright
of Lizzie*Kate, Inc.

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss

■ 1279 holly
○ 2220 curry
• 1091 whitewash

Lizzie*Kate Sterling Silver Charm

♥ snowflake charm

Fabric: 6" x 5" piece 28-count spring Zweigart® Lugana® from Picture This Plus
Stitch count: 57H x 26W
Design size: 4 1/8" x 1 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Attach snowflake charm, using two strands 1091.

Finishing materials and instructions:

544 Mill Hill 02055 brilliant green seed beads (two packages)
31 (3mm) silver beads
Nylon beading thread
5" x 2 3/4" self-adhesive padded mounting board, trimmed into an oval

Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Thread beads onto nylon thread, alternating between seventeen green beads and one silver bead. Secure one end of bead-strand to top of ornament. Begin twisting beads into a coil, couching down bead-strand approximately every five beads, using one strand of coordinating floss. Secure end of bead-strand at top of ornament. Hanger was made using 5/8"-wide green organza ribbon.

Lizzie*Kate, Inc.
2901 Oriole Drive
Wichita, KS 67204
e-mail: *mail@lizziekate.com*
Web site: *www.lizziekate.com*

(Photo is on page 26.)

Lynn's Prints
Diane Graebner

This year, I am using a memory of Phyllis, my right-hand person who actually makes everything work from my designing. She relates the story of a special recipe and an even-more special friend.

"I guess what makes this so special is Marcene, herself. She was a classmate from first grade until graduation. She always brought this to our class reunion breakfasts. Two years ago in October, we had the breakfast here because the woods are always beautiful in the fall. We all laughed and basked in the glorious fall sunshine. The week after Thanksgiving, she died of pancreatic cancer. Her casket was decorated with twinkle lights, and a Christmas tree beside it was decorated with her collection of angels.

"We actually laughed when we saw the entire whimsical scene. It was so 'Marcenish.' We all miss her."

Marcene's Overnight French Toast

6 eggs
2 c. milk
1 c. light cream
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 c. sugar
1 loaf French bread, ends cut off and sliced 1-inch thick (about 8 slices)
1/2 c. melted butter
1/2 c. chopped nuts
1/2 c. brown sugar
2 Tbsp. corn syrup
Ground cinnamon (optional)
Ground nutmeg (optional)

In a mixing bowl, mix together eggs, milk, cream, vanilla, and sugar.

Layer bread in a 13" x 9" baking dish. Pour liquid mixture over bread, and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a medium bowl, combine melted butter, nuts, brown sugar, and corn syrup. Pour over soaked bread and bake for 30–35 minutes, or until light brown.

Sprinkle with cinnamon and nutmeg, if desired.

SHARING THE BOUNTY

Designed by Diane Graebner of Lynn's Prints

DMC® Anchor®

■	310	403	black
@	413	236	pewter gray, dk.
○	945	881	tawny
$	904	258	parrot green, vy. dk.
u	907	255	parrot green, lt.
★	801	359	coffee brown, dk.
B	434	310	brown, lt.
#	321	47	red
♥	815	44	garnet, med.
ℓ	318	235	steel gray, lt. (half cross stitch)
/	415	398	pearl gray

DMC® Light Effects Metallic Floss

.	E5200	white
*	E321	red ruby

Mill Hill Seed Beads

☆	00557	old gold

Fabric: 10" piece 16-count celadon/white 4"-wide Aida Stitchband® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 63H x 47W
Design size: 4 1/2" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over one square, using one strand of floss.

Work half cross stitch over one square, using one strand of floss.

(Photo is on page 22. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss and a cross stitch.

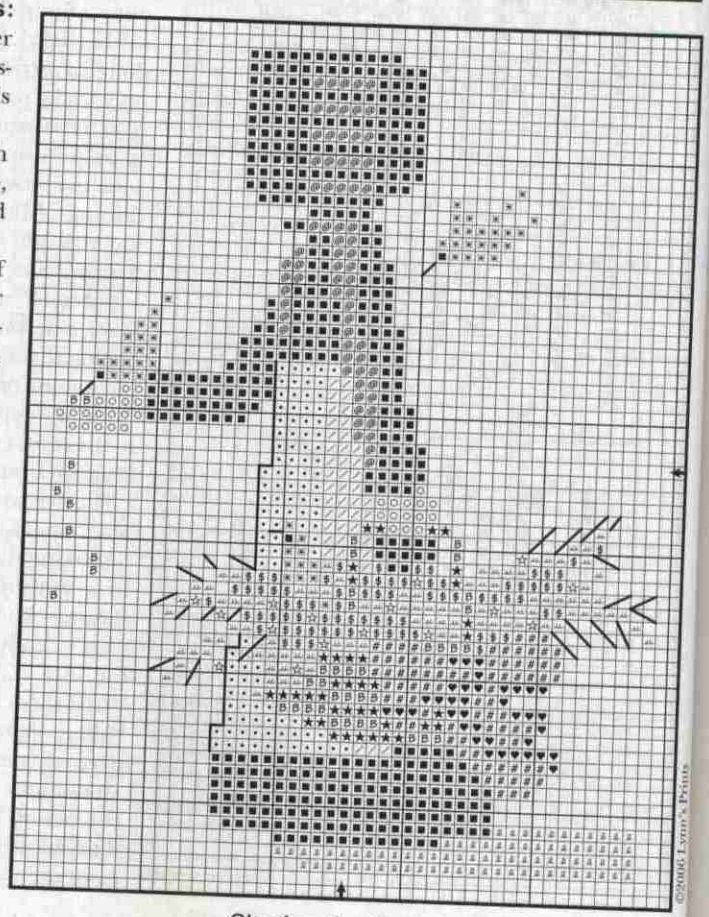
Backstitch instructions:

318	235	apron
907	255	greenery in basket
434	310	birds' beaks

Finishing instructions: Cut a piece of backing fabric 1/4" larger than stitched piece. Fold 3/8" to back at sides and bottom of backing fabric; press. Place stitched piece and backing fabric with wrong sides together. Blind stitch backing to stitched piece. Fold top to back along top edge of stitch piece. Blind stitch in place to form a rod pocket. Insert bellpull hardware into rod pocket. At base, bring bottom edges of Stitchband together to form point; blind stitch together. Press.

Tassel was made using E321. Tassel-making instructions appear on page 77. Hanger was made using 7mm gold ribbon.

Lynn's Prints
Post Office Box 820448
Veyo, UT 84783
e-mail: *dgraebner@aol.com*
Web site: *www.dianegraebner.com*



Sharing the Bounty

M Designs

Mary McLenon-Turley

As usual, there is a little story behind this year's ornament. My children love to "sleep over" in each other's rooms, especially the night before a special occasion like Christmas. I know that, as they get older, they will outgrow their "sleep overs;" but I'll have this ornament to spark my memory. This year, my kids have decided that they want bunk beds. While shopping, I was reminded of my childhood visits to Grandma's cottage.

She had a tiny cottage on a lake, and all of my dad's family spent weekends there. Many times, there were twelve or more people sleeping over. To accommodate the kids, Grandma had a huge bunk bed. Four kids could sleep on top and four on the bottom. All of the beds in the cottage had wonderful wool patchwork quilts on them, perfect for cold Michigan nights. The cottage must have been so crowded during our visits, but I only remember how much fun it was being there with family. I hope that you will make lots of new memories with your family to treasure during the holiday season and throughout the year.

VISIONS OF SUGARPLUMS

Designed by Mary McLenon-Turley of M Designs

DMC®	Anchor®	
X 498	1005	red, dk.
♥ 500	683	blue-green, vy. dk.
★ 501	878	blue-green, dk.
⧗ 501	878	blue-green, dk. (Smyrna cross stitch)
◐ 815	44	garnet, med.

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

• 1108	honeysuckle
☆ 1108	honeysuckle (Smyrna cross stitch)
♀ 1166	sea foam
■ 3910	mascara

Crescent Colours Hand-Dyed Floss

✳	just rust
○	secondhand rose
~	Finley gold
@	cappuccino
/	rosey glow

Just Another Button Company™

1150.L	large white cat
3314.S	small golden star
3449.T	heart (2)
4415.S	small red peppermint (2)
4416.S	small green peppermint
4458.T	tiny ginger

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 36-count bisque linen from Lakeside Linens
Stitch count: 60H x 60W
Design size: $3^{1}/_{8}$" x $3^{1}/_{8}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backtitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads, using two strands of floss. (**NOTE:** Outline indicates stitch placement only and is not to be backstitched.)

Referring to photograph on page 23, attach buttons, using two strands of coordinating floss.

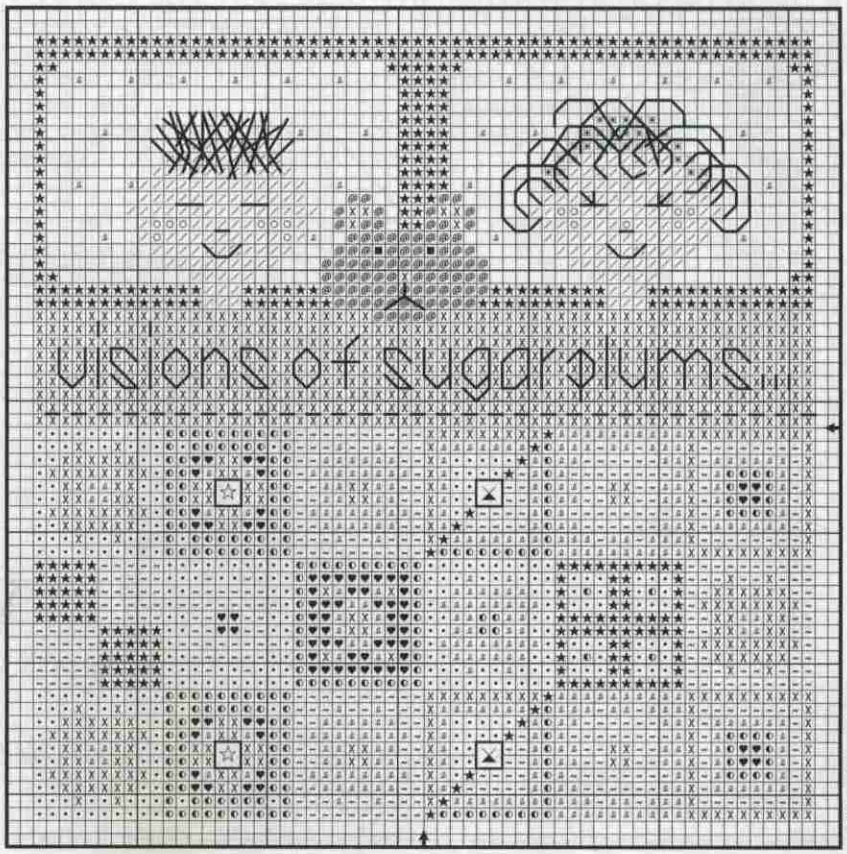
Backstitch instructions:

cappuccino		boy's hair
just rust		girl's hair
498	1005	boy's and girl's noses and mouths
3910		boy's and girl's eyes, bear's mouth
1166		lettering
1108		blanket seam

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using 498/1005. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34.

M Designs
2017 Okmulgee Lane
Crossville, TN 38572
e-mail: *mary@m--designs.com*
Web site: *www.m--designs.com*

(Photo is on page 23.)



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Visions of Sugarplums

monsterbubbles

Heather Holland-Daly

I was on a national tour of *101 Dalmations* and living on a bus and in hotels for five months. Tired of the Pacific Northwest, the people on the bus, and living entirely out of a suitcase, I was dreadfully ready to be home for Christmas.

I flew out of Helena, Montana, and had a layover in Omaha, Nebraska. My 20-minute layover turned into a possible all-night stay. I was so disappointed and tired of traveling, I cried. Just then, I heard someone singing and having a grand old time. Two fellows on their way to somewhere with a guitar and luggage strapped to their backs were coming up the escalator, not a care in the world and heading for their gate. They were singing José Feliciano's "Feliz Navidad" jubilantly. The image of these two men not only cheered me up, but it has stuck with me to this day. I got on the plane two hours later a much merrier gal and hummed that tune all the way home.

FELIZ NAVIDAD

Designed by Heather Holland-Daly of monsterbubbles

DMC®	Anchor®	
@ 3805	62	cyclamen pink
▲ 3808	1068	turquoise, ul. vy. dk.
◐ 905	257	parrot green, dk.
✳ 3803	69	mauve, dk.
■ 3371	382	black-brown
○ 3846		bright turquoise, lt.

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

X 0450		cornhusk

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

• 101		silver

monsterbubbles Sterling Charms

- swirl charm

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 30-count Halloween moon hand-dyed linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 70H x 70W
Design size: $2^{1}/_{3}$" x $2^{1}/_{3}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Work straight stitch for garland, using one strand 3371/382.

Attach charm, using two strands of very fine braid.

Finishing materials and instructions:

Two $4^{1}/_{2}$" x $4^{1}/_{2}$" squares Weeks Dye Works™ bubblegum wool
Bead packet (including handmade silver swirl charm and Swarovski bead charms) from monsterbubbles
Polyester fiberfill

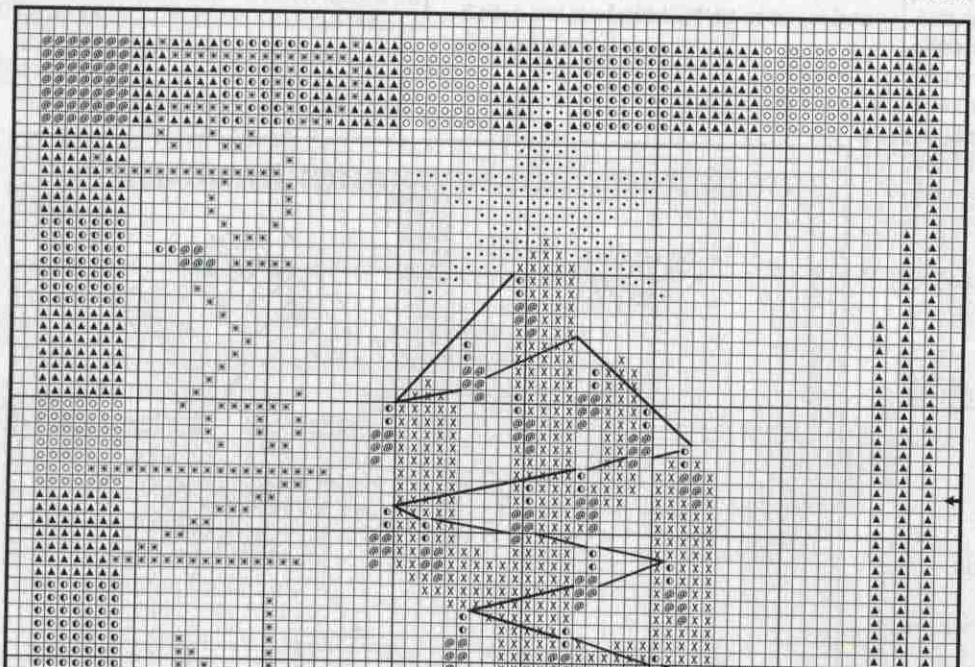
Trim edges of wool felt with pinking shears. Place wool squares together and pin in place. Using a long stitch and one strand 905/257 (working approximately $^{1}/_{4}$" from edge of wool), sew wool pieces together, adding a seed bead to every stitch. Stitch three sides together, stuff with fiberfill, and finish sewing fourth side together.

Trim stitched piece to ten threads from stitching on all sides. Center stitched piece, right-side up, on front of pillow; pin in place. Pull ten threads from all sides to create fringed edge. Using two strands 3805/62, tack ornament to wool felt at corners. Remove pins.

Attach crystal charms to both bottom pillow corners, using one strand 3805/62.

Hanger was made by braiding one 12" strand each of 3808/1068, 905/257, and 3846. working approximately $^{1}/_{4}$" from edge of wool. Add seed bead to one strand of floss every few braids. Attach to ornament using coordinating floss or sewing thread.

(Photo is on page 24.)



Feliz Navidad

monsterbubbles
22 Kenn Drive
Belleville, IL 62226
e-mail:
monsterbubbles@hotmail.com
Web site:
www.monsterbubbles.com

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Mosey 'N Me

Frank and Judy Bielec

Ambrosia Parfaits

½ c. sugar
¼ c. cornstarch
2 c. half-and-half
4 egg yolks
6 oz. grated coconut
1 (8.5-oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained
1 tsp. vanilla extract
½ tsp. coconut extract
3 large naval oranges, peeled and sectioned
2 large ruby red grapefruits, peeled and sectioned
½ c. whipping cream
2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
Toasted coconut (optional)

In a heavy saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch; gradually whisk in half-and-half and egg yolks. Bring to a boil over medium heat on stovetop, whisking constantly. Boil for 1 minute. Remove mixture from heat. Stir in coconut, pineapple, and extracts. Cover and chill for 4 hours, or overnight. Layer fruit sections and coconut-cream mixture evenly in stemmed glasses. Beat whipping cream at high speed with an electric mixer, gradually adding powdered sugar, beating until stiff peaks form. Add a generous dollop of whipped cream to parfaits and garnish with toasted coconut.

FACING THE 25TH

Designed by Frank and Judy Bielec of Mosey 'N Me

Anchor®	DMC®	
. 1	B5200	snow white
X 19	304	red, med.
/ 376	3774	desert sand, vy. lt.
■ 403	310	black
○ 891	676	old gold, lt.
♀ 894	224	shell pink, vy. lt.
✳ 895	223	shell pink, lt.

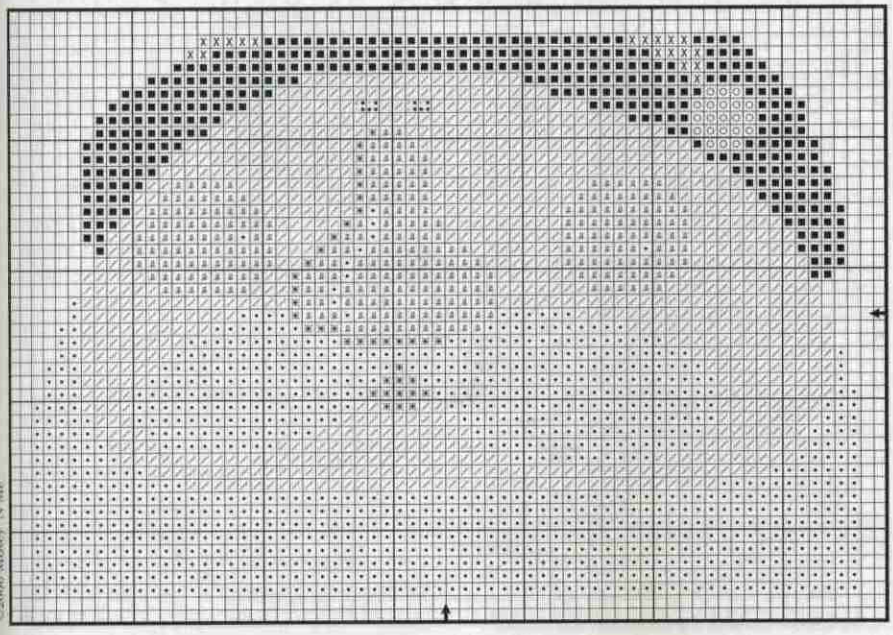
Fabric: 6" x 4" piece 32-count ice blue Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 43H x 64W
Design size: 2¾" x 4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear for Santa's eyes, using one strand of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording hanger was made using 1/B5200. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

Mosey 'N Me
1436 Baird Avenue
Katy, TX 77493
e-mail: *moseynme2000@aol.com*
Web site: *www.moseynme.com*

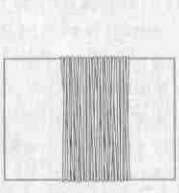


©2006 Mosey 'N Me

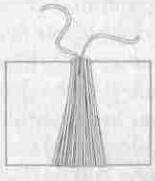
TASSEL-MAKING HOW-TOS

Materials:
One skein of floss (**NOTE:** Refer to ornament color code for specific color and fiber used.)
Square piece sturdy cardboard, approximately 1" larger than desired finished size of tassel
Hand-sewing needle
Scissors

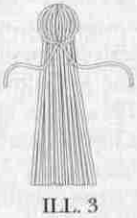
1. Cut two 6" lengths of floss from full skein, to be used for tying top of tassel.
2. Wrap remaining floss around cardboard, referring to Illustration 1 and being careful not to bend cardboard by wrapping floss too tightly.
3. Slip one 6" length of floss under wrapped floss at top edge of cardboard and tie securely, referring to Illustration 2. Do not trim floss tails.
4. Carefully remove cardboard.
5. Referring to Illustration 3, wind second 6" length of floss around neck of tassel, ¼"–½" from top of tassel. Thread needle with floss tail and wrap around tie several times, referring to Illustration 4. Bury floss end in tassel. Repeat for remaining floss tail.
6. Cut along bottom of tassel through all fibers. Trim bottom of tassel to desired length and so that floss is even.
7. Attach tassel to ornament, using floss tail at top of tassel to secure.



ILL. 1

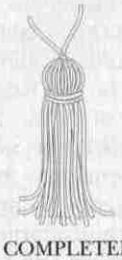


ILL. 2



ILL. 3

ILL. 4



COMPLETED TASSEL

(Photo is on page 29.)

Facing the 25th

one strand 712/926 and a cross stitch.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads, using one strand E899.

Cut fabric threads where gray lines appear next to Kloster blocks. Carefully remove fabric threads.

Work woven bars over vertical or horizontal fabric threads, using one strand Y899.

Work a cross stitch over empty squares where red lines appear on chart, using one strand 712/926 and adding a glass bead to the center of each stitch.

Finishing instructions:

Refer to pillow-finishing instructions on page 34, lining stitched piece with complementary fabric. Attach Mill Hill 10091 glass beads at even intervals along edge of pillow, using one strand 712/926. Twisted-cording hanger and tassel were made using Y899 and Y826. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34. Tassel-making how-tos are on page 77.

NeedlePlay Needlework Designs
2672 Brookrun Drive
Belleville, IL 62221
e-mail: *needleplay@mindspring.com*
Web site:
needleplay.home.mindspring.com

Nordic Needle

Roz Watnemo

When I think of Christmas, I automatically picture a snow-covered landscape and maybe even a few flakes in the air. It's crisp and cold outside; but inside, it's warm and cozy as family gathers to celebrate the most joyous occasion of the year. As our children grow and move away, the "coming home" part of Christmas becomes more important to me. This year, my son is in the Navy; and I don't know if he will be home for Christmas 2006. After having him home for 18 Christmases, it is very strange to think that maybe he will be celebrating Christmas away from home. We'll be together in spirit and have many happy memories to recall of Christmases past, for which we are extremely thankful!

Enjoy this dessert that is just right during the holidays!

Moon Cake Dessert

1 c. water
½ c. butter
1 c. all-purpose flour
4 eggs
2 (3.4-oz.) pkgs. instant vanilla pudding, prepared according to manufacturer's directions
1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese
1 (8-oz.) container frozen non-dairy whipped topping, thawed
Chocolate syrup (optional)
Garnishes (fruit, nuts) (optional)

Preheat oven to 400°.

In a saucepan over medium heat on stovetop, bring water and butter to a boil. Remove from heat and add flour, stirring rapidly with a fork or spoon until it forms a ball. Cool for 5 minutes. Transfer to a mixer bowl.

Beat in eggs, one at a time. Beat well.

Spread in ungreased 12" x 16" jelly-roll pan. Bake for 15 minutes, or until golden brown. Don't prick. Surface will resemble the surface of the moon.

In a mixing bowl, combine prepared pudding and cream cheese. Blend well using a mixer; spread on crust. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

Cover with whipped topping. Upon serving, drizzle each piece with chocolate syrup. Fresh fruit may be added as a garnish as well as nuts, such as cashews.

Nordic Needle
1314 Gateway Drive
Fargo, ND 58103
e-mail: *info@nordicneedle.com*
Web site: *www.nordicneedle.com*

(Photo is on page 27. Additional stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

HARDANGER SNOWFLAKE

Designed by Roz Watnemo
of Nordic Needle

Anchor® Pearl Cotton #5
M7046 red with gold

Anchor® Pearl Cotton #8
X 0001 white

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 22-count Christmas red fine Ariosa from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 32H x 32W
Design size: $2^{7}/_{8}$" x $2^{7}/_{8}$"

Instructions: Work Kloster blocks over four threads, using one strand of pearl cotton #5.

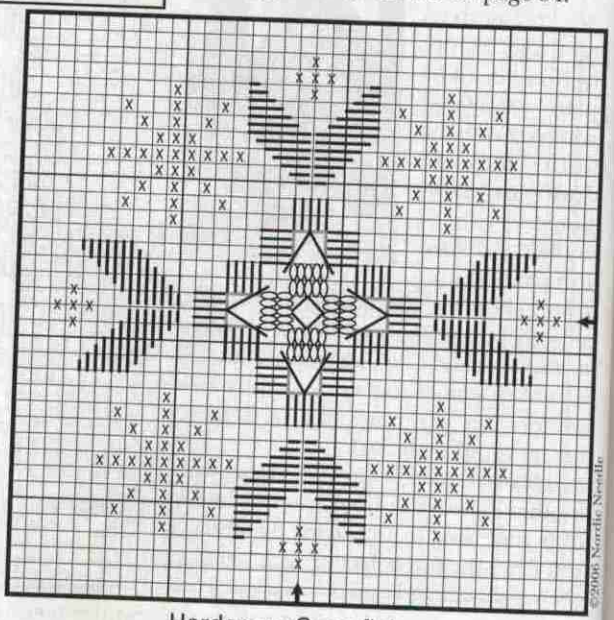
Work satin stitch motifs over varying threads, using one strand of pearl cotton #5.

Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of pearl cotton #8.

Cut fabric threads where gray lines appear and carefully remove threads. Work woven bars over remaining vertical or horizontal fabric threads, using one strand of pearl cotton #8.

Work partial dove's-eye stitches in outer squares of withdrawn-thread motif, using one strand of pearl cotton #8. Work complete dove's eye stitch in central square, using one strand of pearl cotton #8.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34, lining stitched piece with complementary fabric. Ornament was mounted on $3^{1}/_{2}$" round board. Twisted-cording trim was made using M7046 pearl cotton. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.



Hardanger Snowflake

Olde Colonial Designs

Pam Reed

This recipe is the best on Christmas morning with a glass of eggnog.

Apple Cake

8 apples, sliced
5 Tbsp. sugar
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
3 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. salt
3 tsp. baking powder
2 c. sugar
1 c. vegetable oil
4 eggs
1/4 c. orange juice
2 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°.

Sprinkle sliced apples with 5 Tbsp. sugar and cinnamon. Toss to coat. Set aside.

In a large bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Mix until combined; fold apple mixture into batter. Pour into buttered Bundt® pan. Bake for 1 hour, or until top springs back.

CHRISTMAS

Designed by Pam Reed
of Olde Colonial Designs

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

■	1230	Havana
♥	1339	Bordeaux (Smyrna cross stitch
X	2159	seaweed
	1223	Schneckley

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

B	0240	midnight

DMC® Anchor®

.	712	926	cream (Smyrna cross stitch
/	712	926	cream (half cross stitch)

Olde Colonial Designs Charm
★ Santa charm

Fabric: 7" x 9" piece 32-count natural Graziano Sienna linen from Norden Crafts, Ltd.
Stitch count: 53H x 29W
Design size: 3 3/8" x 1 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

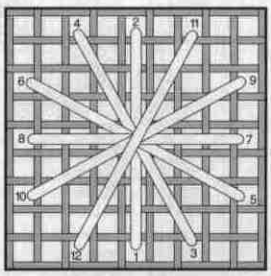
Cross stitch over one thread where small symbols appear, using one strand of floss.

Work half cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work rounded Rhodes stitch over eight threads for top of tree, using two strands 1223.



Rounded Rhodes Stitch (Over Eight)

Attach Santa charm, using two strands 1223.

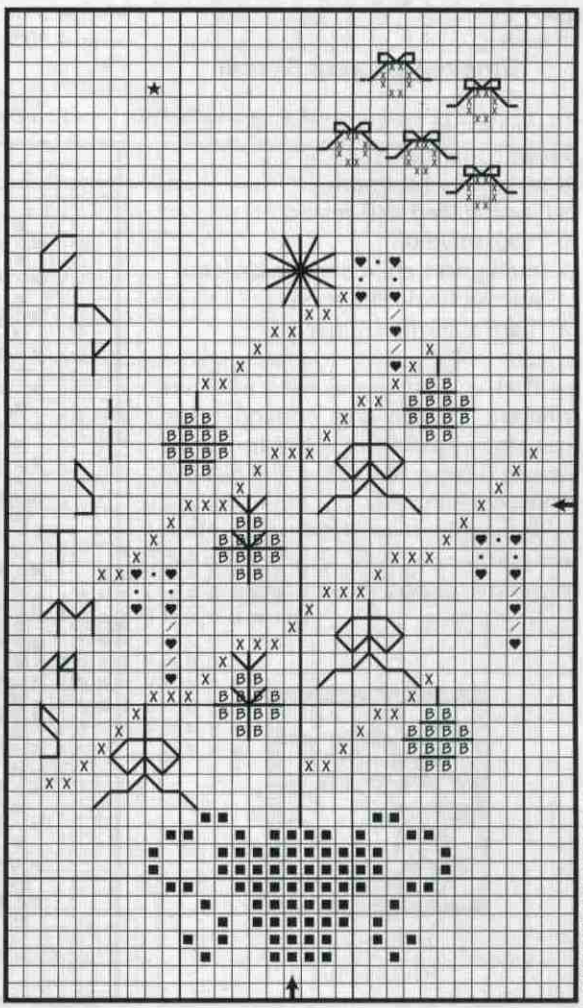
Backstitch instructions:

1339	horizontal stripes on ornaments, bows, lettering
2159	tree trunk (two strands)
2159	ornament hangers
1223	ray motif on ornaments
1339	bows on small wreaths

Finishing instructions: Ornament was placed in "JCS 2006" frame (1 7/8" x 3 3/8" opening) from Olde Colonial Designs. Charm packet with frame (7807JCS06) available from Olde Colonial Designs.

(Photo is on page 10. Additional stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

Olde Colonial Designs
Post Office Box 704
Marshfield, MA 02050
e-mail: *stitches@adelphia.net*
Web site: *www.oldecolonialdesigns.com*



Christmas

©2006 Olde Colonial Designs

Patricia Ann Designs

Patricia Ann Bage

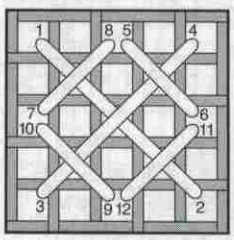
This is a recipe that I discovered a few years ago, and now every Christmas the family looks forward to this as the starter before we have our traditional roast-turkey dinner. Although last year about three days after Christmas, I noticed that the coriander was still in its flowerpot, growing on my kitchen window sill—nobody had noticed that the coriander was missing from the dish. So don't worry if you do not have any fresh coriander; it's still good without it.

Smoked Salmon Starter

½ cucumber
Fresh coriander
8 oz. smoked salmon
3 limes, juiced and zested
6 Tbsp. olive oil
1 small green chile pepper, deseeded and finely chopped
2 Tbsp. superfine sugar

Peel cucumber and slice into fine ribbons. Roughly tear coriander and combine with cucumber. Divide mixture among 5 plates and top with a piece of smoked salmon.

In a medium bowl, whisk together lime zest and juice, olive oil, chile pepper, and sugar. Drizzle over salmon. Serve.



Rice Stitch
(Over Four)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

Designed by Patricia Ann Bage
of Patricia Ann Designs

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	815	44	garnet, med.
X	500	683	blue-green, vy. dk.

	Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4	
.	002	gold

	Mill Hill Treasures	
★	12038	snowflake

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 28-count antique white linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 43H x 43W
Design size: 3 1/8" x 3 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Work horizontal and vertical satin stitch for leaves, using two strands 500/683. Work diagonal satin stitch for flowers, using two strands 815/44.

Work rice stitch over four threads where ✳ appears at center of flowers, using one strand 002. (**NOTE:** Outline indicates stitch placement only and is not to be backstitched.)

Work straight stitch for center of leaves and flower petals, using two strands of floss.

Attach treasure, using one strand 002.

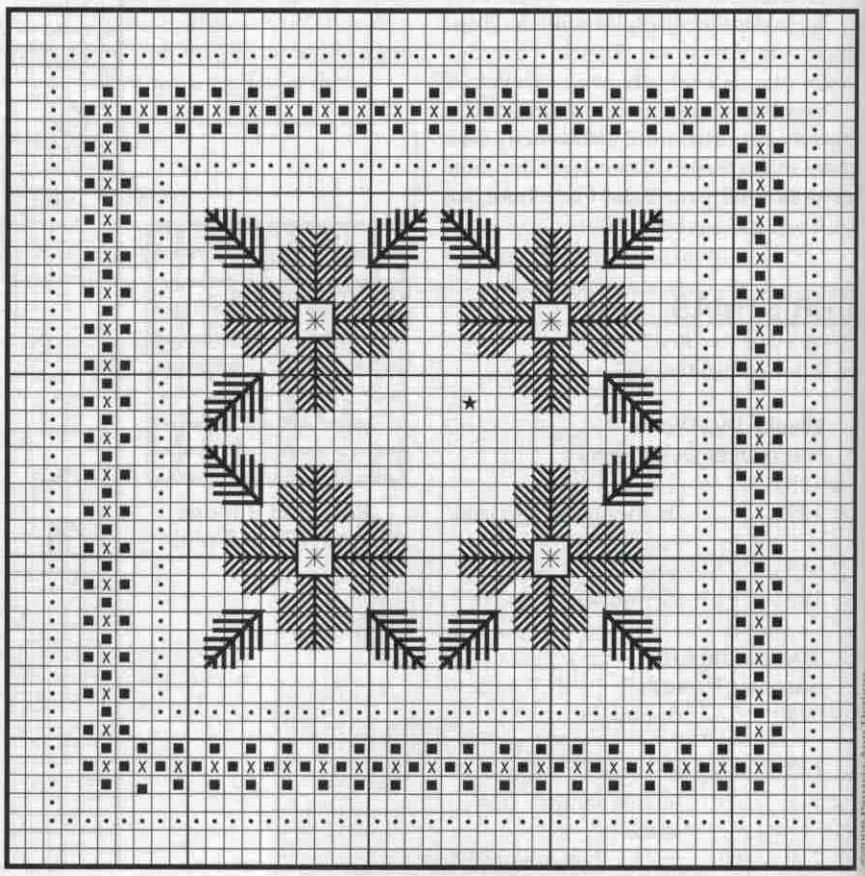
Straight-stitch instructions:

500	683	center of leaves
815	44	center of flower petals

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim made using 002 and DMC® 815 Coton Perlé #5. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34. Tassel was made using DMC® 815 Coton Perlé #5 and wrapping tassel with a strand of gold seed beads. (Model uses Mill Hill 40557 Petite Seed Beads.) Secure wrapped strand with a drop of glue. Tassel-making instructions appear on page 77.

Patricia Ann Designs
9 Poachers Close
Chatham, Kent ME5 8JF
England
e-mail: *patricia.bage@btinternet.com*
Web site: *www.patricia-ann-designs.com*

(Photo is on page 25. Additional stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Christmas Poinsettia

Periwinkle Promises

Barbara L. Rakosnik

I hope you enjoy! Merry Christmas!

Candy-Cane Coffee Cake

2 (.25-oz.) pkgs. active dry yeast
½ c. warm water
1¼ c. buttermilk
½ c. sugar
½ c. margarine, softened
2 eggs
2 tsp. baking powder
5½–6 c. all-purpose flour, divided
1½ c. dried apricots, chopped
1½ c. maraschino cherries, chopped

Glaze:
2 c. powdered sugar
2 Tbsp. milk

In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Add buttermilk, sugar, margarine, eggs, baking powder, and 2½ c. flour. Beat with an electric mixer on low speed for two minutes. Continue to add flour slowly until dough is easy to handle.

Sprinkle work surface with flour and turn out dough. Knead until smooth. Divide into 3 equal parts. Roll each part into a rectangle about 15" x 6" and place on greased cookie sheets. Make 2" cuts in dough on long side of dough at ½" intervals.

In a bowl, combine apricots and cherries. Spread ⅓ of mixture in center of each piece of dough. Criss-cross cut strips of dough over fruit mixture. Stretch each rectangle and shape to form candy-cane. Cover and place in a warm place; allow to rise for 1 hour. (Dough will double in size.)

Preheat oven to 375°.

Bake for 18–20 minutes.

In the meantime, in a bowl, combine powdered sugar and milk.

Remove cakes from oven and drizzle with glaze.

NOEL

Designed by Barbara Rakosnik
of Periwinkle Promises

	Au Ver a Soie® Soie d'Alger®	
■	1846	forest green, vy. dk.
X	1835	celery green, dk.
	2924	brick red, med. dk.

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count open window cream Riviera linen from Fratelli Graziano
Stitch count: 35H x 35W
Design size: 2½" x 2½"

Instructions: Center design within linen panel.

Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work partial stitches where small symbols appear.

Work wrapped backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work padded Rhodes stitch over eight threads for berries, using two strands 2924.

Wrapped-backstitch instructions:

1835	dark-green leaf
1846	light-green leaf
2924	lettering

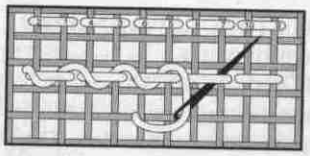
Finishing materials and instructions:

Count out twelve threads from each side of withdrawn-thread panels and remove one fabric thread. Count out an additional twelve threads and remove an additional fabric thread. Trim fabric to within ⅜" of second withdrawn thread.

Fold fabric along lines formed by removed threads. Work hemstitch over two fabric threads to secure seam allowance and compress fabric threads into pairs.

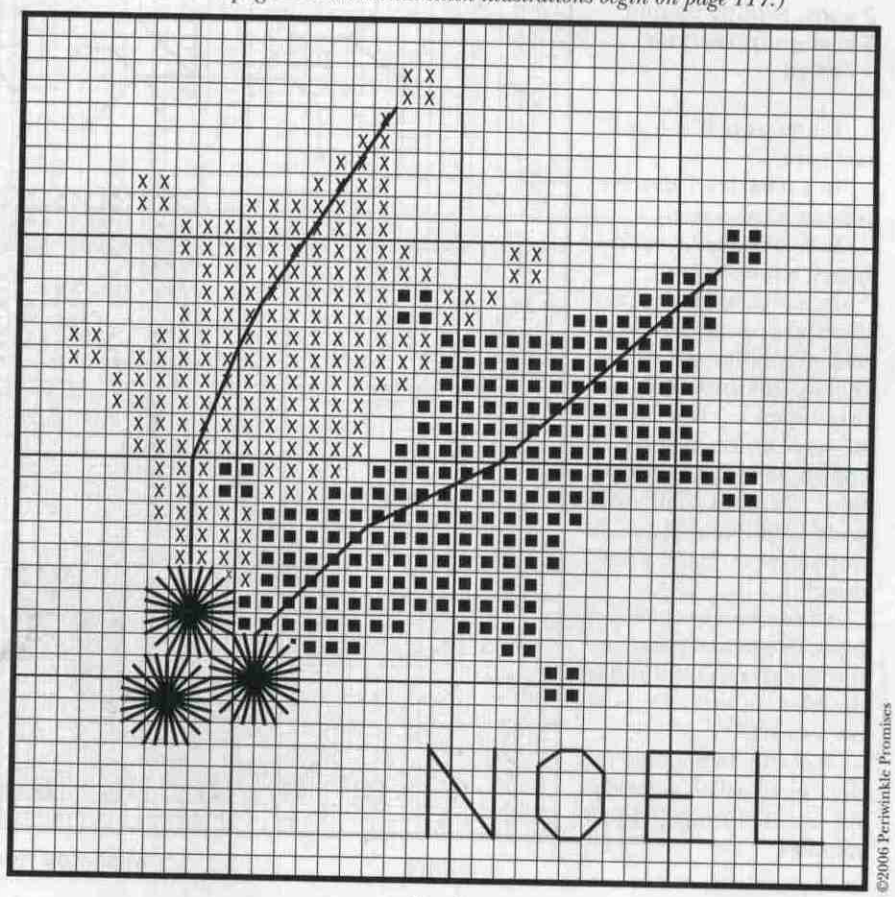
Weave a 30" length of ⅜"-wide satin ribbon through the withdrawn-thread areas, forming a loose knot in each corner before proceeding to next side. Make a hanger from an additional length of ribbon and tack in place on reverse side of ornament.

Periwinkle Promises
1060 Timarron Trail
Bogart, GA 30622-5815
e-mail: *periprom@aol.com*
Web site: *www.periwinklepromises.com*



Wrapped Backstitch

(Photo is on page 27. Additional stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Noel

©2006 Periwinkle Promises

Prairie Moon

Barbara Syburg and Suzanne Shead

Enjoy our version of an old recipe for Sally Lunn bread. We loved baking it in the old Wisconsin farmhouse we turned into "Mistletoe House" each Christmas. Lightly toasted with sweet Golden Guernsey butter and a little honey—delightful!

May your holidays be blessed.

Sally Lunn Bread

1 (.25-oz.) pkg. active dry yeast
1/4 c. warm water
2 1/2–4 Tbsp. honey (to taste)
6 Tbsp. butter, softened
1 tsp. salt
1 3/4 c. whole milk
2 eggs, slightly beaten
5 c. all-purpose flour, sifted

Butter two 9"-x-5"-x-3" loaf pans.

In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water.

In another bowl, combine honey, butter, and salt.

In a saucepan over medium heat on stovetop, heat milk until almost boiling; remove from heat and pour over honey mixture. Allow to cool. Once mixture is cooled, add yeast, eggs, and flour. Stir until combined. (Add additional flour, if necessary, to make a soft dough.)

Divide dough in half and place in two loaf pans. Let the dough rise until it has doubled in size. Preheat oven to 400°.

Bake for 15 minutes; reduce heat to 350° and bake for an additional 15–18 minutes.

MISTLETOE HOUSE

Designed by Barbara Syburg and Suzanne Shead of Prairie Moon

	Au Ver A Soie® Soie d'Alger®	DMC®	
X	1825	562	jade, med.
■	2924	347	salmon, vy. dk.
•	mode	ecru	ecru

Fabric: 5" x 5" piece 28-count Fitzgerald red linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 68H x 68W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. Cross sitch over one thread for berries, using two strands 2924/347.

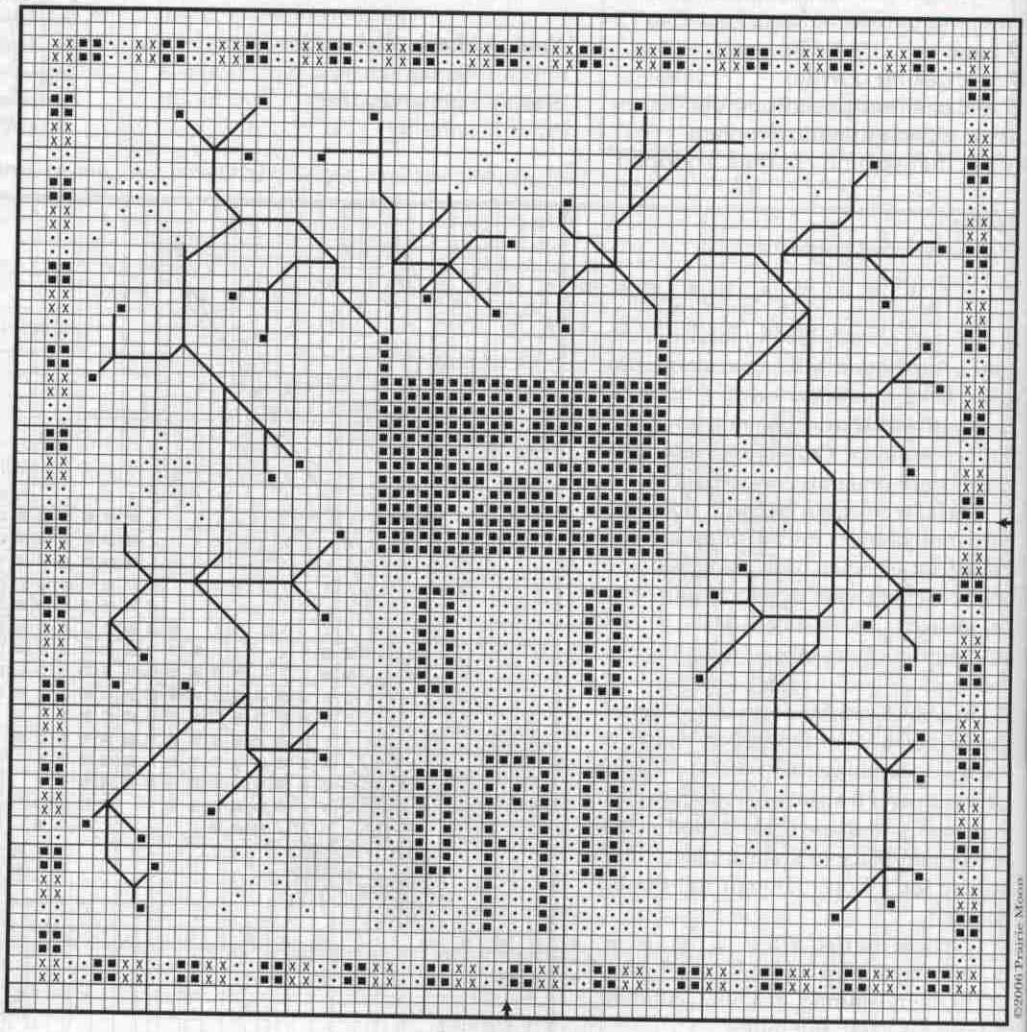
Backstitch over one thread for vines, using one strand 1825/562.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim was made using 2924/347. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

Finished by House of Stitches

Prairie Moon
2540 Meadow Wood Road
Granbury, TX 76048
e-mail: *prairiemoon3@aol.com*
Web site: *www.prairiemoon3.com*

(Photo is on page 14.)



Mistletoe House

The Prairie Schooler

Pamela Byrd Smith

Living in Kansas, we are privileged to experience four very distinct seasons. But, the Prairie Schooler also has a fifth season, Christmas. Christmas lasts year-round for us.

Just when the holiday season is winding down and everyone is packing away their ornaments, we are beginning to gear up for the process of designing next year's Christmas books. First comes the idea; then the design is drawn and painted, and floss colors are selected. The models are stitched, proofed, and framed or finished. Next the designs are graphed, and a "set-up" for the cover photograph is created for photography. When it is already a hot Kansas summer, the books are sent to the printer for our July release date. Once the books arrive, we get busy shipping our Christmas designs to our customers and continue shipping for the rest of the year. Yes, Christmas is with us all year. Our wish to you and yours is that you, too, may carry the spirit of Christmas in your hearts all the year through.

On a cold winter's day, there is nothing better than a stick-to-your-ribs breakfast. Here's a recipe that will do the trick. This has become one of our family's favorite breakfast recipes. Enjoy!

Baked Oatmeal

2 c. quick oats (not instant)
1/4 c. brown sugar
1/2 c. chopped walnuts
1 tsp. baking soda
1 1/2 c. milk
1/2 c. unsweetened applesauce
2 Tbsp. melted butter
1 egg, beaten

Preheat oven to 375°.

In a medium bowl, combine oats, sugar, walnuts, and baking soda. In another bowl, combine milk, applesauce, butter, and egg. Add milk mixture to oat mixture and stir well. Pour into an 8" pan, coated with nonstick cooking spray. Bake for 20–25 minutes. Serve warm with choice of toppings: honey, raisins, fresh fruit, milk, or butter.

WINTER

Designed by Pamela Byrd Smith
of The Prairie Schooler

	DMC®	Anchor®	
•	blanc	2	white
▲	898	380	coffee brown, vy. dk.
B	926	850	gray-green, med.
~	3023	899	brown-gray, lt.
$	3362	263	pine green, med.
■	3371	382	black-brown
@	3777	1015	terra-cotta, vy. dk.
·	3787	904	brown-gray, dk.
X	3830	5975	terra-cotta

Fabric: 8" x 9" piece 32-count lambswool Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 36H x 51W
Design size: 2 1/4" x 3 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

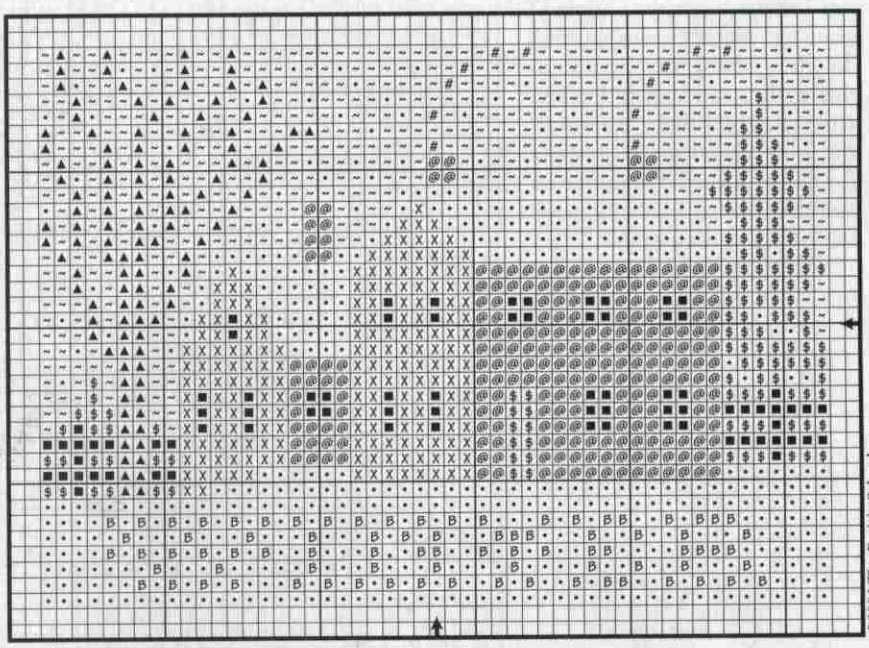
Finishing materials and instructions:
3" x 2 1/8" piece cardboard
3" x 2 1/8" piece batting
4" x 3 1/8" piece red felt
6" length twisted cording, made from DMC® 3777*

Glue batting to cardboard. Trim linen to 1" from stitching on all sides of stitched design. Center batting side of cardboard against wrong side of stitched piece. Fold excess fabric over cardboard and glue in place. Fashion twisted cording into a loop and glue ends to back of cardboard. Using pinking shears, trim approximately 1/4" from all sides of felt, making the resulting piece slightly larger than stitched piece. Glue felt to back of cardboard. Tack twisted-cording hanger to back of ornament.

*Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

The Prairie Schooler
Post Office Box 8381
Prairie Village, KS 66208
e-mail: *info@prairieschooler.com*
Web site: *www.prairieschooler.com*

(Photo is on page 15.)



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Winter

Praiseworthy Stitches

Pam Lewis and Susan Rohm

For more than 25 years, our families have made time during the busy Christmas season to spend at least one evening with all of our families and friends together in a very loud and fun spaghetti dinner. We have watched our children slurp their first noodles, gnaw their first garlic bread, and grow their own bonds of love with each other over the years. We never seem to know how many are going to be there. Some years, we have more and others less; we just never know, so planning the meal can be interesting.

We never seem to have enough food—we seem to always run out of spaghetti noodles (thank heavens for macaroni) and bread. But we never seem to run out of laughter, thank goodness!

We're starting the second generation of spaghetti enthusiasts—matter of fact, a couple of years ago Katie (Susan's granddaughter) took her first steps during dinner across my kitchen table to my dad right around all the food! We are just so grateful for all the love and laughter we continue to share with our growing families and friends.

Merry Christmas!

THE BIRD'S CAROL

Designed by Pam Lewis and Susan Rohm of Praiseworthy Stitches

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

$	0120	pine
@	0210	blue jay
X	0330	cherry wine
■	0440	maple syrup
a	0530	pumpkin patch
·	0540	brandy

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Threads™

▲	7015	sarsaparilla
✱	7003	shutter green

Mill Hill Antique Seed Beads

●	03003	antique cranberry

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 32-count dark espresso hand-dyed linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count: 69H x 65W
Design size: $4^{3}/_{8}$" x $4^{1}/_{8}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

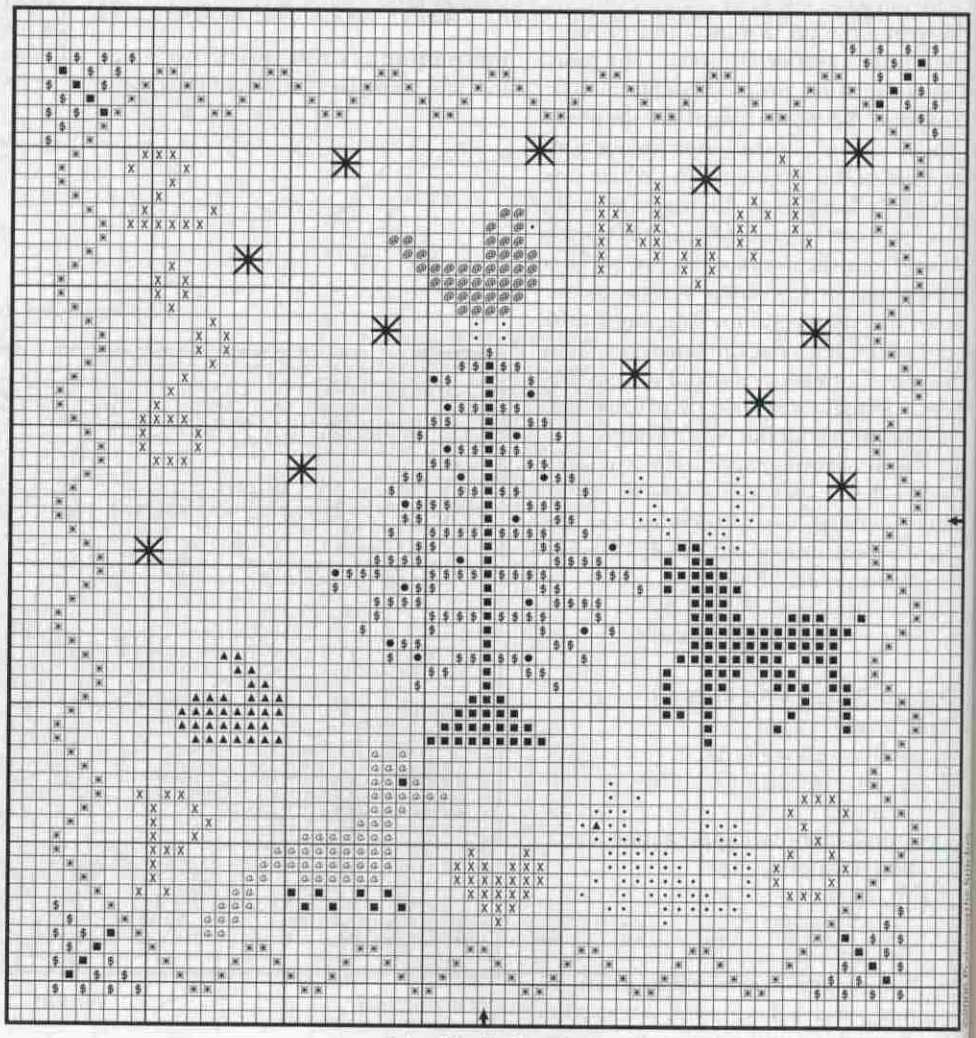
Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads, using two strands 0540.

Attach beads, using one strand 0330 and a half cross stitch.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Pillow was finished with ruffled trim. Hanger made from $^{7}/_{8}$"-wide grosgrain ribbon.

Praiseworthy Stitches
Post Office Box 781
Dallas, NC 28034
e-mail: *praiseworthystch@bellsouth.net*
Web site: *www.praiseworthystitches.com*

(Photo is on page 11. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



The Bird's Carol

Raise the Roof Designs

Sue Rainer and Theresa Venette

Season's greetings from Theresa and Sue at Raise the Roof Designs! This is our first appearance in the *Just CrossStich* Ornament Issue, and we are absolutely thrilled to be a part of it. We both have many fond memories of Christmases past.

For me (Sue), it is baking Christmas cookies. For as long as I can remember, we have always baked cookies at Christmastime. My mom gives an assortment of the sweet treats to friends, relatives, and neighbors as Christmas gifts. She would also make a huge cookie platter for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for the relatives. I loved to watch my relatives stare at the platter and try to decide which cookies to sample and how many they could take without looking like a pig.

To this day, my mom and I work for at least two days every year baking at least 15–20 different kinds of cookies. It is hard work, but it is a labor of love. I hope you enjoy this recipe from my 96-year-old grandmother, Marie. It makes a lot of cookies!

Grandma Anderson's Ginger Cookies

1 c. shortening
½ c. margarine (not butter)
2 c. sugar
2 eggs
½ c. dark molasses
4¼ c. all-purpose flour
4 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
Sugar

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a large mixing bowl, combine all ingredients and mix well. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for 1 hour. Remove from refrigerator and roll dough into 1" balls. Place balls into a bowl of sugar and roll until coated. Place on a cookie sheet 2" apart (cookies will spread). Bake for 10 minutes.

ARM AND A LEG

Designed by Susan Rainer and Theresa Venette of Raise the Roof Designs

The Gentle Art
Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

X	7034	gingersnap

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss

bs	4139	Bethlehem

DMC® Anchor®

○	562	210	jade, med.
■	3818	923	emerald green, ul. vy. dk.
bs	blanc	2	white
bs	3371	382	black-brown

Just Another Button Company™

3407.S	folk art white heart
3449.T	folk art red heart

Fabric: 5" x 5" piece 32-count opalescent white Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 56H x 49W
Design size: 3½" x 3⅛"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work straight stitch for handle and dollar symbol on shopping bag, using two strands 3371/382.

Work French knot where • appears, using two strands of floss and wrapping floss around needle once.

Attach buttons where ★ appears, using two strands blanc/2 and stacking small button atop larger button. Knot ends on front side of ornament and trim to desired length.

Backstitch instructions:

4139		lettering
blanc	2	mouth
3371	382	remaining backstitch

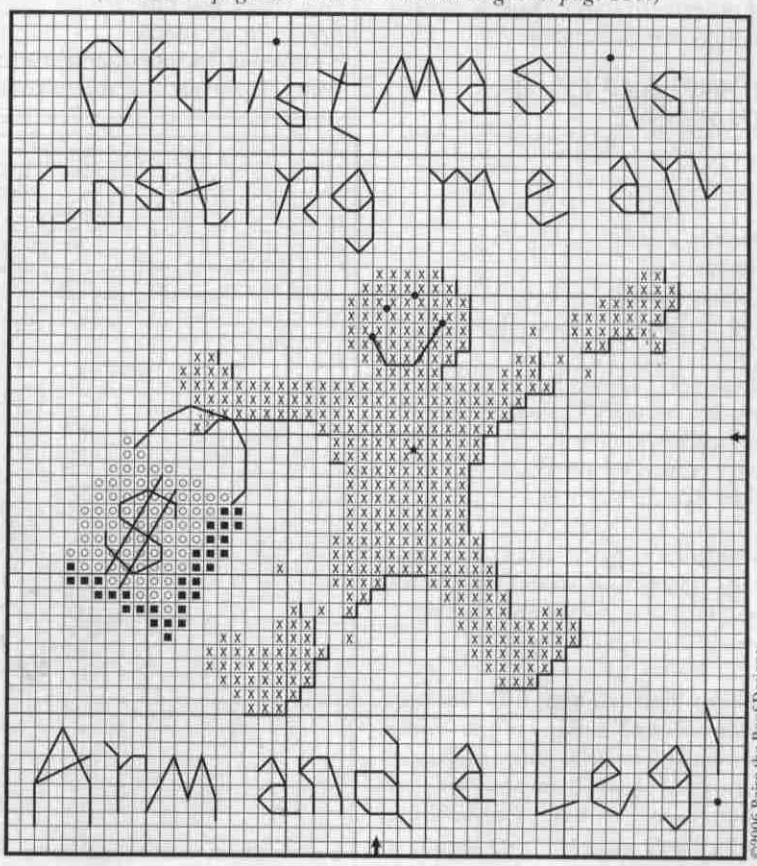
French-knot instructions:

4139		lettering
blanc	2	mouth, eyes

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34.

Raise the Roof Designs
1351 Page Drive, Suite 208
Fargo, ND 58103
e-mail: *raisetheroofdesigns@yahoo.com*
Web site: *www.raisetheroofdesigns.com*

(Photo is on page 22. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Arm and a Leg

Scandinavian Stitches

Lynda Baldauf

Pulla is a popular bread in Finland, and it is served for breakfast or with an afternoon cup of coffee. My husband likes to make it in the bread machine the night before so that we wake up to the wonderful aroma of cardamom! Yummy!

Finnish Pulla for Bread Machine

1 c. milk
1 egg
5 Tbsp. margarine
¾ c. sugar
2¾ c. all-purpose flour
¾ tsp. salt
¾ Tbsp. coarse cardamom or 1 Tbsp. fine cardamom (coarse is preferred)
5 tsp. dry active yeast

Add ingredients to the bread machine in the order listed above. Cook, according to manufacturer's directions.

SNOWFLAKE CONE ORNAMENT

Designed by Lynda Baldauf of Scandinavian Stitches

Danish Flower Thread	DMC®	
○ 600	blanc	snow white

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count millennium blue Zweigart® Cashel® linen from Scandinavian Stitches
Stitch count: 49H x 49W
Design size: 3½" x 3½"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of Danish Flower Thread or two strands of DMC® six-strand embroidery floss.

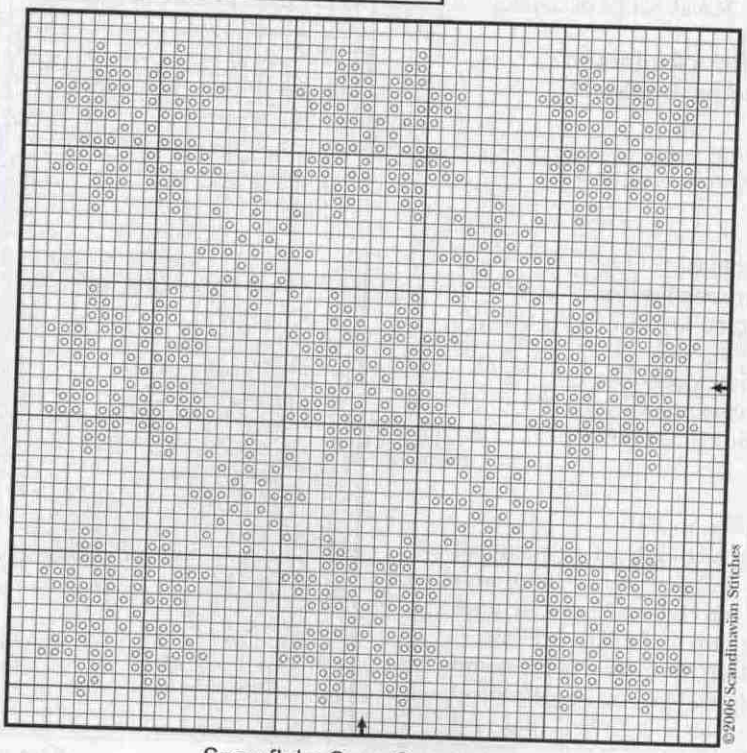
Finishing instructions: Trim linen to 1" from stitched design. (From lining fabric, cut a piece ½" smaller on all sides than stitched piece.) Trim one corner of stitched piece to within ½" of stitching to reduce bulk at tip of cone, rounding corner slightly. Using a sewing machine, sew a zig-zag stitch around raw edge of stitched piece. Finger press seam allowance to reverse side seven threads from stitched design; press fold with iron.

Fold stitched piece in half diagonally, with right sides together. Referring to illustration on page 118, bring bottom edges of stitched piece (adjoining rounded corner) together. After ensuring that snowflakes line up across seam, whipstitch seam together with coordinating thread, beginning at bottom of cone and working upward. Turn right-side out and carefully extend point of cone with crochet hook or chopstick.

Repeat process with lining fabric but do not turn right-side out. Insert lining into stitched cone, right-side in, into the cone, aligning top edges. Blind stitch top edges together.

Make a 15" length of twisted cording from 600/blanc. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34. Beginning at seam line at back of cone, blind stitch cording to top edge of cone. When top-center point of cone's front is reached, make a 2½" loop before continuing to blind stitch cording along remaining top edge of cone. Tuck ends of cording inside cone and tack in place.

Scandinavian Stitches
Post Office Box 501
Riverside, CT 06878
e-mail: *info@scandinavianstitches.com*
Web site: *www.scandinavianstitches.com*



©2006 Scandinavian Stitches

Snowflake Cone Ornament

Serendipity Designs

Carolyn Meacham

Low-Fat Amaretto Fudge

3 c. chocolate chips
1 tsp. almond extract
¼ c. Amaretto liqueur
1 (14-oz.) can fat-free sweetened condensed milk
¾ c. sliced almonds, toasted

In a microwave-safe bowl, microwave chocolate chips for 3 minutes on High (100% power), stirring occasionally. Add almond extract and Amaretto, stirring well. Stir in milk; combine well.

Spray 8" square dish with nonstick cooking spray and spread toasted almonds on bottom. Pour chocolate mixture over almonds. Refrigerate for several hours, or overnight.

(Photo is on page 25.)

CHRISTMAS GOOSE

Designed by Carolyn Meacham
of Serendipty Designs

	DMC®	Anchor®	
//	368	214	pistachio green, lt.
@	320	215	pistachio green, med.
@	367	216	pistachio green, dk.
■	319	1044	pistachio green, vy. dk.
X	335	40	rose
◐	816	43	garnet
▲	816	43	garnet
▲	335	40	rose
~	899	38	rose, med.
☆	3853	1001	autumn gold, dk.
•	blanc	2	white
○	729	890	old gold, med.
○	002HL	Kreinik® #8	gold
bs	645	273	beaver gray, vy. dk.

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 32-count driftwood Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 60H x 60W
Design size: $3\frac{3}{4}$" x $3\frac{3}{4}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

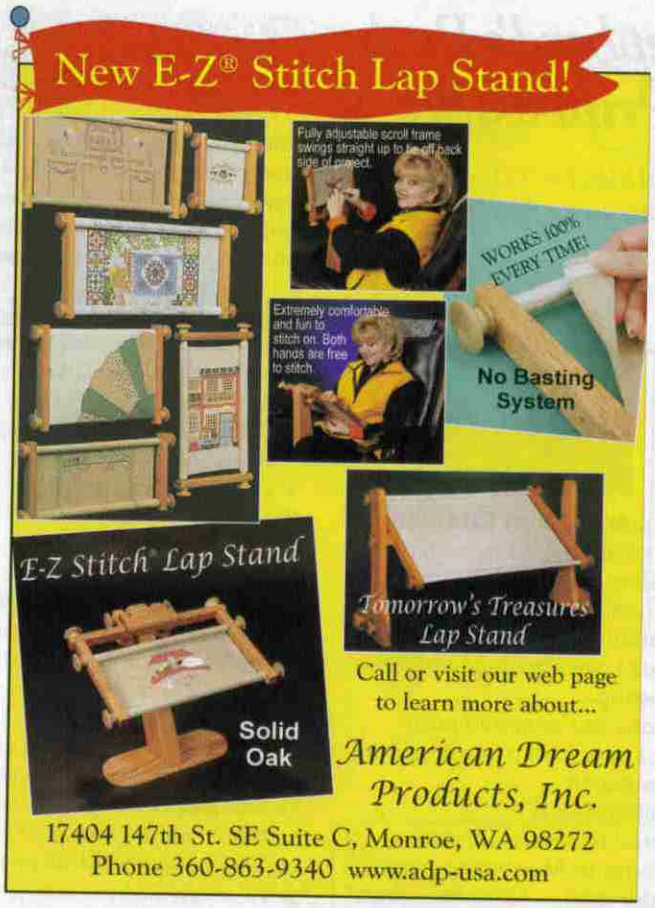
Backstitch instructions:

645	273	goose
319	1044	holly stems (two strands)
816	43	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim was made using DMC® 642 six-strand embroidery floss and Kreinik® 002HL Braid #8. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

(Photo is on page 21. Additional stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

Serendipity Designs
11612 Busy Street
Richmond, VA 23236
e-mail: *cmmeacham@aol.com*
Web site: *www.serendipitydesigns.com*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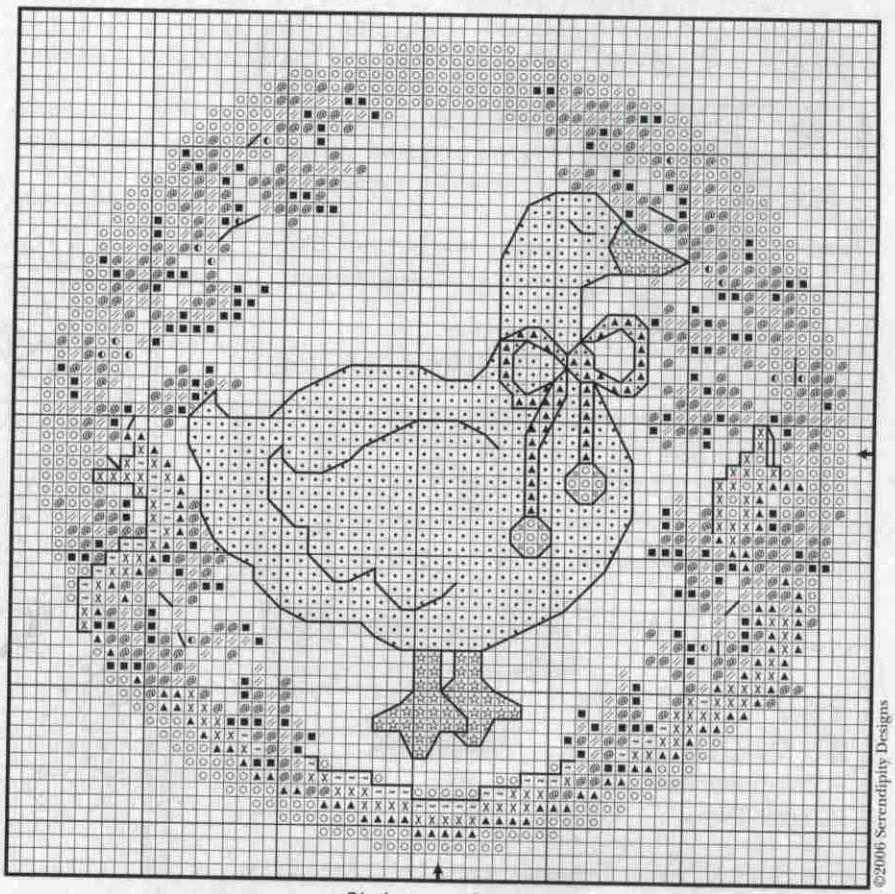


Christmas Goose

©2006 Serendipity Designs

Shepherd's Bush Printworks

Teri Richards and
Tina Richards Herman

Shepherd's Corn Chowder

1 medium Yukon gold potato, diced
1 stalk celery, diced
1 carrot, peeled and diced
1 small onion, diced
1 (10.75-oz.) can cream-of-mushroom soup
1 (14.75-oz.) can creamed corn
1/2 (16-oz.) pkg. frozen kernel corn
3–4 slices bacon
2–3 c. half-and-half
10 oz. shredded cheese (Fontina, Jarlsburg, or Monterrey Jack/Cheddar mix)

In a pot over medium heat on stovetop, sauté vegetables in a little olive oil until tender. Remove veggies and set aside.

Chop bacon into bite-size pieces and cook until crisp. Remove and drain on paper towels. Return vegetables and bacon to pot and add soup, creamed corn, frozen corn, and half-and-half. Warm until heated through. Just before serving, add cheese.

MARY AND JOSEPH

Designed by Tina Richards Herman of Shepherd's Bush Printworks

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

¢	2196	scuppernong
Ƀ	1233	cocoa
■	1304	onyx
♀	1332	red pear
#	1296	dolphin
♥	3850	Williamsburg red
//	1302	pelican
★	1298	gun metal
	2158	juniper

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

○	0420	gold leaf
.	7027	parchment

Shepherd's Bush Sterling Charms

◐ silver rosebud

Fabric: 5" x 5" piece 32-count dark espresso hand-dyed linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 41H x 40W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Work three-quarter cross stitches where small symbols appear on faces, using one strand 1233.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work straight stitch over four threads where heavy lines appear for Mary's flower, using one strand 3850.

Attach charm, using three strands 2196/3052.

Backstitch instructions:

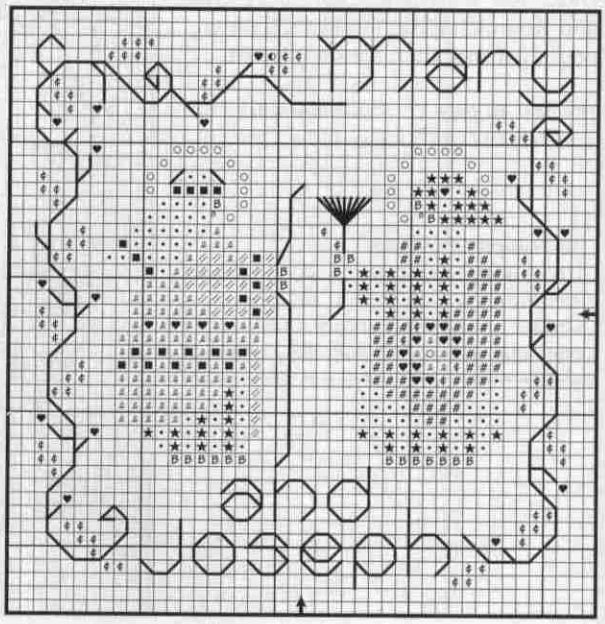
1298	lettering
2158	vines
2196	stem on Mary's flower
1302	staff

Finishing instructions: Four strips of complementary flannel fabrics were sewn together to create a "frame" for the stitched piece. Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34.

Hanger was made using 1/2"-wide hand-dyed green silk ribbon.

Shepherd's Bush Printworks
220 24th Street
Ogden, UT 84401
Web site: *www.shepherdsbush.net*

(Photo is on page 25.)



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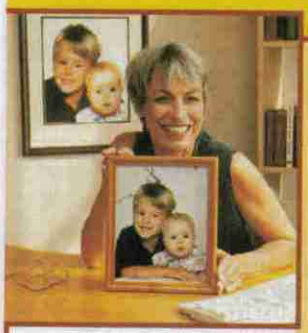
Can't Find it? Create it!



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Sisters and Best Friends

Amy K. Bruecken and Koneta A. Hurlstone

This is a cute little present for a special friendship.

Best Friend Tea

2 c. orange-flavored drink mix
1 c. sugar
¾ c. instant tea
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. ground cloves

In a medium bowl, combine all ingredients. Fill cute airtight bags and tuck in a lovely antique tea cup.

Relax and enjoy the holidays.

CHUCKLES

Designed by Amy Bruecken and Koneta Ann Hurlstone of Sisters and Best Friends

Rainbow Gallery Wisper

•	W88	white

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

■	2333	Peoria purple
X	2263	begonia
✳	2271	peony
	2226	carrot

DMC® Anchor®

310	403	black

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

•	02014	black (2)

Sisters and Best Friends Buttons
carrot nose

Fabric: 6" x 5" piece 28-count snow squall linen from Crossed Wing Collection
Stitch count: 42H x 30W
Design size: 3" x 2¼"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands 310/403.

Attach beads for eyes, using one strand 310/403 and a cross stitch.

Attach carrot nose at center of face, using two strands 2226.

Finishing materials and instructions:
Weeks Dye Works™ Wool:
8" x 8" piece 2316 iris
1" x 7½" piece 2226 carrot
1" x 1" piece 2226 carrot
3" x 3" piece 2151 gulf
2" x 2" piece 2271 peony
Weeks Dye Works™ 2171 emerald floss
Sisters and Best Friends Buttons:
blue star (6)
pink heart (1)
14" length 26-gauge wire

Trim stitched piece to 1¼" from stitching on all sides.

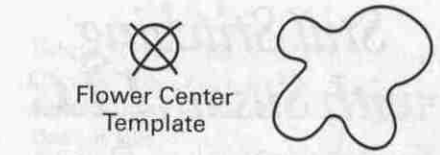
Using templates at right, cut the follow pieces from wool:
- three flowers (2271)
- three flowers centers (2271)
- six leaves (2151)
- one hat (2316)

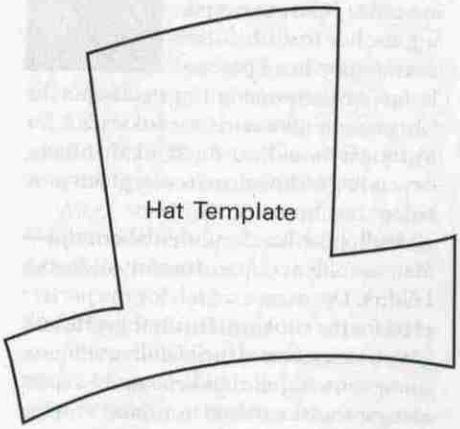
Attach hat to stitched piece by working running stitch around perimeter of hat, using two strands 310/403. Work straight stitch to form veins on wool leaves, using two strands 2171. Work long stitch to attach flower centers to flowers, using two strands 2271. To form bow tie, tie a loose knot in 1" x 7½" piece 2226 wool. Tack flowers and leaves to both sides of bow tie and to top hat, referring to photo for placement.

Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Model uses 2316 wool for backing. Tack bow-tie to ornament below snowman's face.

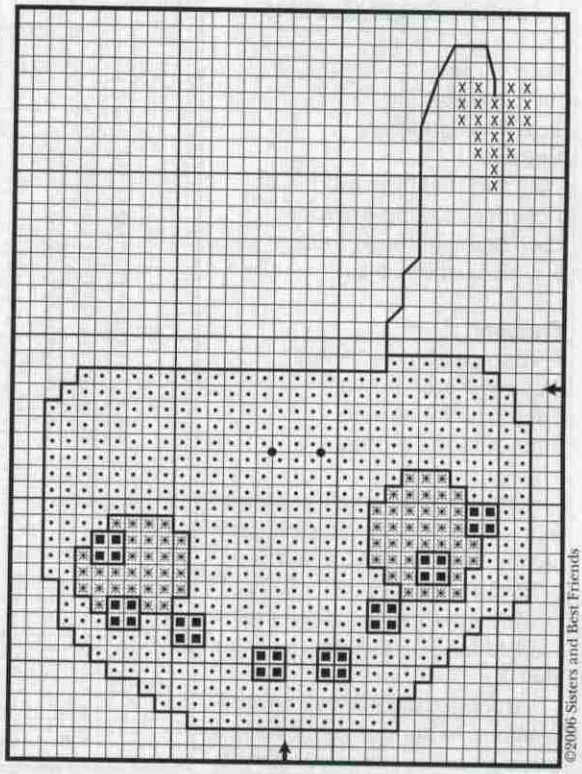
Thread buttons onto length of wire, referring to photograph for placement. To create hanger, insert ends of wire into top corners of ornament, folding back ends by 1" and wrapping around hanger to secure.

(Photo is on page 16. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)





Sisters and Best Friends
4332 Rugby Drive
Toledo, OH 43614
e-mail: *sisters4332@aol.com*



©2006 Sisters and Best Friends

Chuckles

Still Stitching with Susan, LLC

Susan Greening Davis

Fourteen years ago, my youngest sister had her first child. The first Christmas that Matt was here was very special as Julie was preparing for her first Christmas as a mommy. In my parents' home, we always made a big deal about the Christmas tradition of the cookie plate for Santa. He would eat them all, or nibble, depending on how many cookies had come before our house!

Well, Julie had forgotten about this—Matt was only a couple of months old—but I didn't. I went on a search for the perfect plate for the cookies. I finally found it, and it has become part of their family traditions. Along the way, Julie has become an expert at sugar cookies, thanks to an aunt's recipe and her boys' helping!

This design is dedicated to you, Julie, for all the cookies that have been on that special plate and will be in the future.

Merry Christmas everyone and may your cookie plates always be full of your favorite kind!

Julie's Sugar Cookies

1½ c. sugar
1¼ c. shortening
8 oz. sour cream
3 eggs
1¼ Tbsp. baking soda
1½ Tbsp. baking powder
1¼ Tbsp. vanilla extract
5 c. all-purpose flour

Frosting:
4 Tbsp. butter, softened
2 c. powdered sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. orange extract

In a large bowl, combine all cake ingredients. Mix together. Refrigerate for several hours, or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°.

Roll out with flour; cut out shapes.

Bake for 8–10 minutes on cookie sheets.

After cookies have cooled, combine frosting ingredients in a mixing bowl, beating until smooth. Frost cookies.

COOKIES FOR MR. C

Designed by Susan Greening Davis of Still Stitching with Susan, LLC

DMC® Anchor®
· blanc 2 white

Ginnie Thompson Flower Thread
■ 548 bright green
bs 209 red, med.

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4
X 002HL gold

Hobb Nobb Buttons
● E875 mini gingerbread men (8)

Fabric: Two 8" x 8" pieces 32-count red Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 75H x 75W
Design size: 4⅝" x 4⅝"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss, one strand of flower thread, or one strand of braid.

Backstitch over two threads for outer border, using one strand 209.

Attach buttons, using coordinating floss and orienting gingerbread men in various directions.

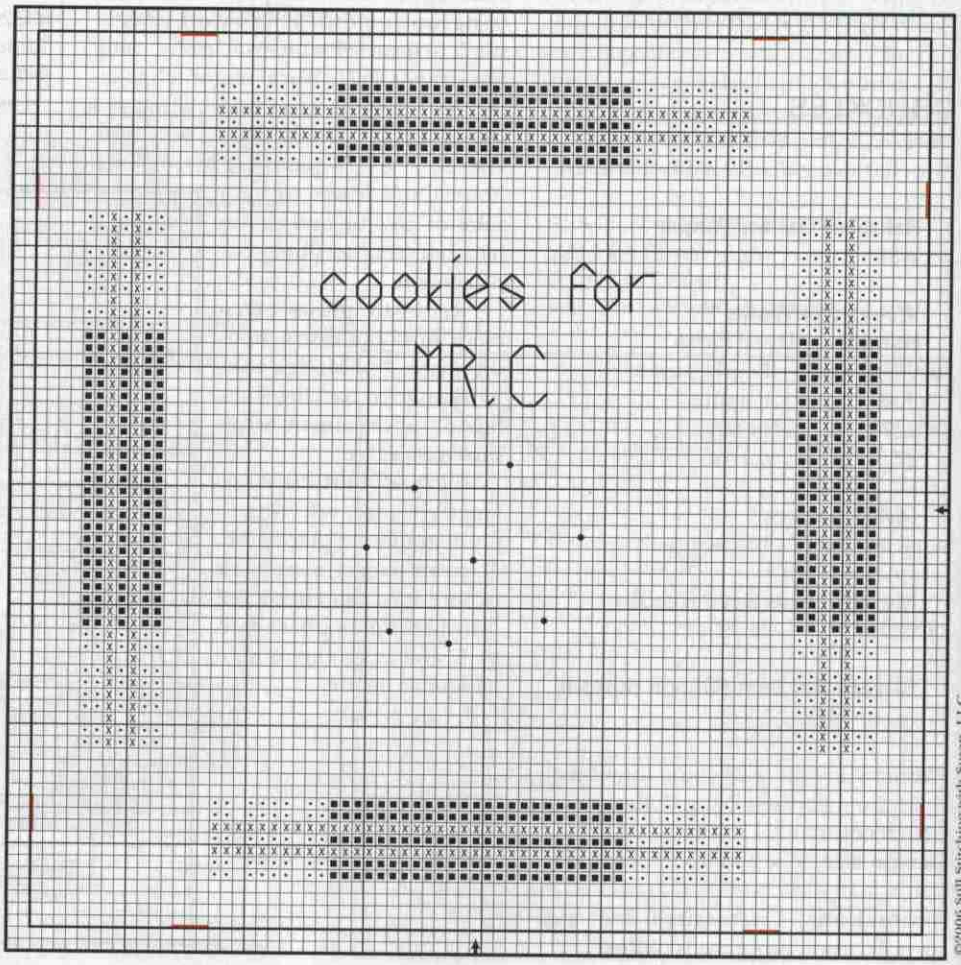
Stitch backstitch border only on second piece of fabric.

Finishing instructions:

Cut eight 6" lengths ¼"-diameter grosgrain ribbon. Trim seam allowance of stitched pieces to within ½" of backstitched border; finger press to wrong side along backstitched border. Place stitched pieces with wrong sides together, aligning edges. Using one strand 209, lace pieces together through backstitches, inserting a piece of ribbon between fabric layers where red lines appear on chart; pierce ribbon with lacing stitches to secure ribbon within seam. Tie ribbons into bows at corners, pinching corner fabric together and drawing fabric up into the shape of a box.

Still Stitching with Susan, LLC
Post Office Box 103
St. Louis, MI 48880
e-mail: *SGreeningd@aol.com*
Web site: *www.susangreeningdavis.com*

(Photo is on page 23.)



Cookies for Mr. C

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The Stitchworks, Ltd.

Cindy and David Morrill

Holiday times are filled with lots of family and friends who always gather at our house. This year, we were so blessed with two new family members. Our daughter Christine got married, and we welcomed Grant into our family. Our son and his wife gave us another grandson, Foster. (Cameron and Foster are in the photo.) I have been very busy stitching stockings and designing new ornaments!

We get so excited when we take our decorations down from storage and start putting up our trees. One of our trees is always snowmen, so we try to design a new snowman every year to add to it. I hope you and yours enjoy our newest addition, "Vested Snowman."

Corn Dip

2 (11-oz.) cans Mexican-style corn
2 (4.5-oz) cans chopped green chiles
1 (4-oz.) jar sliced pimentos
1 c. mayonnaise
3 oz. grated Parmesan cheese
12 oz. shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Spray a 2-qt. casserole dish with nonstick cooking spray; pour dip mixture into dish. Bake for 35–40 minutes, or until browned and bubbly. Serve with corn chips.

You can make this ahead and put it in the oven just before your guests arrive. Enjoy!

The Stitchworks, Ltd.
6011 South Sheridan Road
Tulsa, OK 74145
e-mail: *mail@stitchworks.com*
Web site: www.stitchworks.com

VESTED SNOWMAN

Designed by Cindy and David Morrill of The Stitchworks, Ltd.

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads™

■	0240	midnight

The Gentle Art Simply Shaker Sampler Threads™

X	0723	green pasture

DMC® Anchor®

·[	blanc	1	white
·[	032 Kreinik® BF		pearl
▲	310	403	black
⩍	318	235	steel gray, lt.
★	500	683	blue-gray, vy. dk.
	721	324	orange spice, med.

Rainbow Gallery Wisper

✳	W71	red

Crescent Colours Hand-Dyed Floss

◐	091	apple fritter

The Stitchworks™ Fizz

○	white (half cross stitch)

The Stitchworks™ Buttons

- ◆ carrot nose
- ● black button

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 28-count pewter Lugana® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 55H x 39W
Design size: 4" x 2 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of Wisper. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands 310/403.

Work half cross stitch over two threads for top of hat, using one strand Fizz.

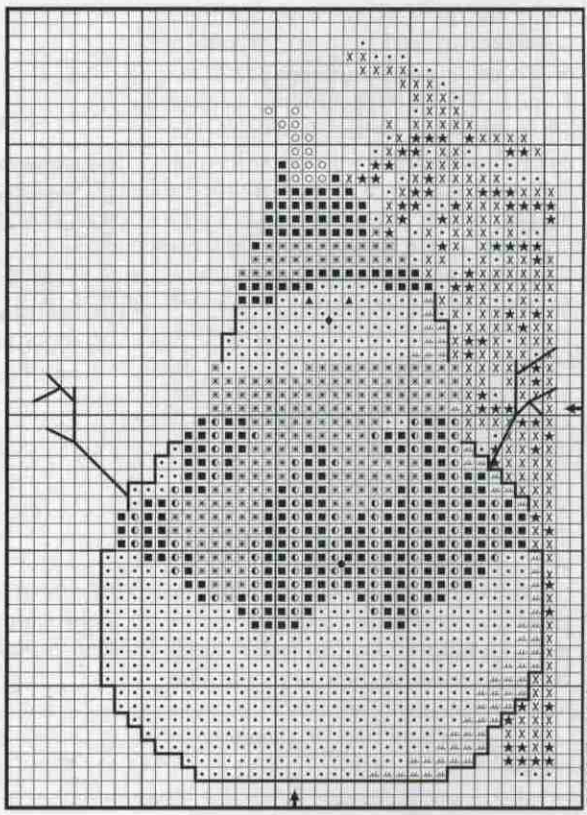
Attach carrot nose button, using two strands 721/324. Attach small black button, using two strands 310/403.

After stitching is complete, brush Wisper stitches with nap raiser or Bunka brush to create fuzz.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim was made using DMC® 498 Coton Perlé and Rainbow Gallery 210C Gold Rush 14. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.

Corners were embellished with 1/2" white iridescent ribbon bows and two pearl beads.

(Photo is on page 16. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Vested Snowman

Sue Hillis Designs, Inc.

Sue Hillis

Christmas has always been the most special holiday to me. It signifies family, love, and sharing. I truly enjoy all the preparations, and I start early in the fall to gather the decorations to make our home inviting to all. Our children come with their children early in the season to help decorate the trees—I think we are up to about ten trees now!

The main tree is in the living room; it's about ten feet tall, and finding just the right tree is a real challenge. There is considerable discussion over which tree is the best on the lot, and then there's the adventure of getting it home and into the tree stand without injury to the participants. That accomplished, I am in charge of putting on the hundreds of white lights; and finally, we are ready for the ornaments.

Each year, as we take the ornaments out of the tissue, we relive yet again the memories of each. We tell of travels, events, celebrations, and even our follies. Some are store-bought ornaments; some are handmade treasures. Last year, when we finished the tree and stood back to ooh and aah, I told the grandkids another of my favorite Christmas memories.

It was my dad's job to take us kids out to get the tree each Christmas. We would go to the tree lot and spend hours finding the tree that was as close to perfect as we could find, tie it to the top of the station wagon, and carry it home. Then Dad would set to work with his Craftsman drill to saw and reconstruct the tree! He would take the scraggley branches from below, trim them up, and drill a hole in the trunk where he found bare spots and glue and insert the trimmed branches. His task finally completed, the tree truly was perfect... and then we covered the entire tree with miles and miles of silver tinsel. When we finished, there were no visible signs of that perfect pine tree!

I hope you all have the happiest of holidays!

CROSS-STITCH CHRISTMAS

Designed by Sue Hillis
of Sue Hillis Designs, Inc.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
.	712	926	cream
ℓ	989	242	forest green
■	3799	236	pewter gray, vy. dk.
♥	817	13	coral red, vy. dk.
△	437	362	tan, lt.
/	415	398	pearl gray
G	988	243	forest green, med.
a	350	11	coral, med.
~	3822	295	straw, lt.
+	318	235	steel gray, lt.
@	987	244	forest green, dk.
X	349	13	coral, dk.
○	676	891	old gold, lt.
bs	898	380	coffee brown, vy. dk.
bs	3348	264	yellow-green, vy. lt.
ls	414	235	pearl gray, med.

Mill Hill Seed Beads

●	02063	crayon crimson

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 28-count summer khaki Lugana
Stitch count: 51H x 43W
Design size: $3^5/_8$" x $3^1/_8$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss, unless otherwise noted.

Work cross stitch over four threads where X appears around border, using two strands 349/13.

Work long stitch for needle and for pins in pincushion, using one strand 414/235.

To create yellow skein of floss, make four or five loose long stitches where gray lines appear, using three strands 3822/295. Repeat for loops on each end of skein.

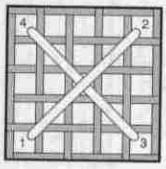
Attach beads, using two strands 349/13 and a cross stitch.

Backstitch instructions:

817	13	lettering, floss in needle
3348	264	holly leaves
676	891	skein labels (gray lines)
987	244	lines on pincushion, emery cord
898	380	remainder of backstitch (one strand)

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim was made using 817/13. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34. Hanger was made using $^1/_8$"-wide red satin ribbon.

Sue Hillis Designs, Inc.
11610 Busy Street
Richmond, VA 23236
e-mail: *suehillisdesigns@aol.com*
Web site: www.suehillisdesigns.net



Cross Stitch
(Over Four)

(Photo is on page 26. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

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Cross-Stitch Christmas

The Sunflower Seed

Anita Boatright

Friends and family are what make Christmas special. Some come, and some go; but others are with you forever! When you are overwhelmed with all the preparations of the holiday season, take a few minutes, sit down, relax, close your eyes, and remember a fun "Christmas Past."

The year was 1960 or 1961, I'm not sure. The greatest invention ever was the latest craze, and I wanted one in the worst way. Her name was "Barbie." One afternoon, the family had gone to town, and for some strange reason, I was left at home—alone! That almost *never* happened. For pity's sake, I was only seven or eight years old; and we lived in the country. Anyway, I was there alone, and what self-respecting kid could pass up the opportunity to shake and squeeze the gifts under the tree? I spied a long narrow box, and my heart started pounding. I just couldn't believe that maybe, just maybe, that could be the Barbie of my dreams. I sat on the floor in front of the tree and just stared at the box. I couldn't stand it any longer. I grabbed the box, ran upstairs, and very carefully, unwrapped it. To my utter surprise and relief, there she was, a beautiful blonde pony-tailed Barbie! I could not have been more excited. After a few moments of gazing at my new doll, I realized that I could get caught. I quickly and so carefully re-wrapped the box, down the stairs I flew, placed it back under the tree, and went about the rest of the day, whatever that might have been.

I don't think anyone ever knew that I had been such a bad girl (they do now!). To this day, I don't remember unwrapping that doll on Christmas Eve. The memory and excitement is of that quiet afternoon "home alone." Each time I reach inside my cedar chest to pick out a tablecloth for a special dinner, I know I will see an old, very special, "forever-kind-of-friend." Barbie is alive and well and is "queen of my cedar chest!"

SILVER AND GOLD

Designed by Anita Boatright
of The Sunflower Seed

Rainbow Gallery
Nordic Gold®

○ ND2	gold
· ND3	silver

The Gentle Art
Sampler Threads™

@ 0360	cranberry

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss

■ 1268	molasses
★ 2159	seaweed
X 1302	pelican gray

DMC®	Anchor®	
3371	382	black-brown

Mill Hill Frosted Seed Beads

♥ 62032	cranberry

Mill Hill Petite Seed Beads

△ 40557	gold

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 32-count ivory linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 62H x 62W
Design size: $3^{7}/_{8}$" x $3^{7}/_{8}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of Nordic Gold®.

Backstitch over two threads for lettering, using one strand 3371/382.

Work long stitch for rays coming from chest, using one strand ND02 for black lines and one strand ND03 for gray lines.

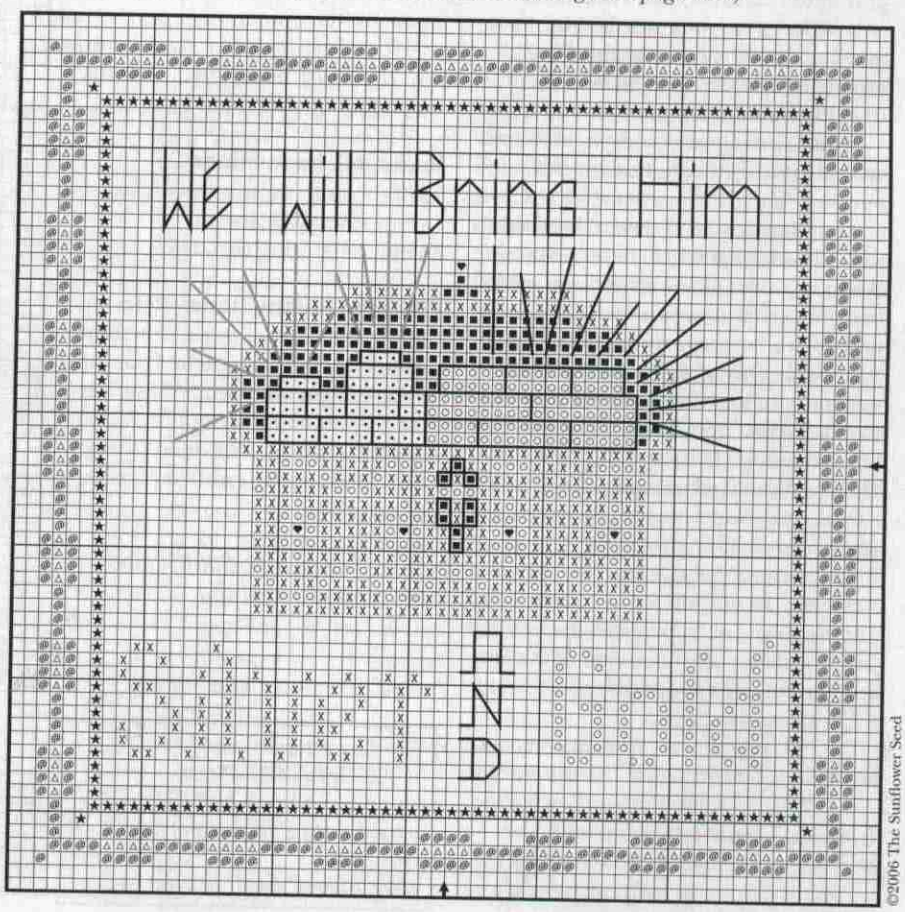
Attach cranberry beads, using one strand 0360 and a cross stitch.

Attach gold beads, using a long stitch threaded with four beads and two strands of coordinating floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Trim was purchased.

The Sunflower Seed
4004 South West Huntoon
Topeka, KS 66604
e-mail: *sunflowerseed3@juno.com*
Web site: *www.thesunflowerseed.com*

(Photo is on page 13. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



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Silver and Gold

The Sweetheart Tree™

Sandra Cox Vanosdall

Though this happened over 20 years ago, my recollection is as vivid today as it was when it happened.

When our children were little, we would plan our yearly trek to see the "real" Santa Claus at the Marshall Fields store on State Street in Chicago. Without fail, every year, our daughter Stephanie would tell Santa that she wanted a "white girl kitty with blue eyes, a pink nose, and big fluffy tail." And each year as she made this request, I would sadly stand behind her and just out of sight, make eye contact with Santa and subtly shake my head "no."

So imagine our surprise when in mid-December, friends called to say that they had just rescued three kittens, and one was a long-haired white female—with the prerequisite pink nose and fluffy tail. The only difference from our daughter's request was that she had one shocking blue eye and one shocking green eye. Needless to say, we fell instantly in love!

The following weekend, we made our annual trip to visit Santa. I quietly explained our situtation to the mother ahead of us in line and handed her a note to be given to Santa when she and her children saw him. When our turn finally arrived, we walked into the room; and to our shock, Santa stood up and in a booming voice full of joy said, "Stephanie Vanosdall! My elves told me you were on your way. Come here! Santa needs to talk to you." You can well imagine that Stephanie's eyes became the size of saucers. She timidly walked up and hopped up on Santa's knee. Santa quietly told her he had remembered all the years she had asked for a kitty and that this year he had saved a very special one just for her. Santa asked just two favors of Stephanie—the first was that she always take good care of the kitty, and the second was that she give the kitty a Christmas name.

When Christmas morning arrived, Stephanie found a fluff-ball whom she named "Angel" under the tree. Best buddies from the moment their eyes met, the two were seldom separated from that day on.

Stephanie (at age six) is pictured above with her own "Christmas Angel."

CHRISTMAS JOY BELLPULL

Designed by Sandra Cox Vanosdall of The Sweetheart Tree™

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

X	2153	cypress
■	1339	Bordeaux
	1091	whitewash
	1279	holly

Mill Hill Magnifica Glass Beads

♥	10033	antique cranberry (25)
◊	10042	vanilla (19)

The Sweetheart Tree™ Paillettes

○	SV-CP250B	crystal clear

Fabric: 7" x 5" piece 32-count metallic opalescent/raw Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 62H x 27W

Design size: $3^{7}/_{8}$" x $1^{3}/_{4}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Attach beads, using two strands 1091 and a cross stitch.

Attach paillettes, using one strand 1091.

Work Rhodes-heart stitch over ten threads, using two strands 1339.

Backstitch instructions:

1279	outermost border, vines, tendrils, leaves
1339	lettering and date

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Use backstitched outline as a guide for cutting and shaping. Hanger was made using purchased cording. Tassels were made using 2153. Tassel-making instructions are on page 77.

(Photo is on page 19. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

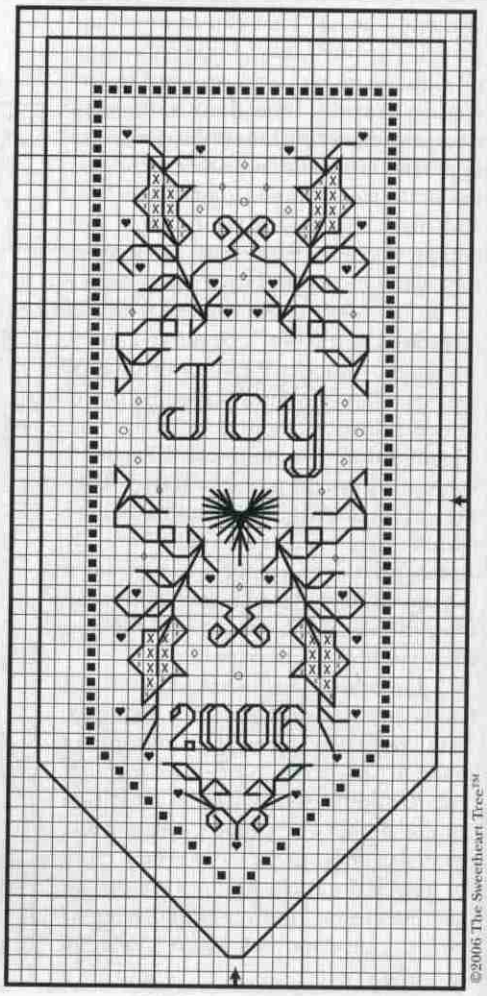
The Sweetheart Tree™
10308 North 48th Place
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
e-mail: *info@sweetheartree.com*
Web site:
www.sweetheartree.com

Thistle Threads

Tricia Wilson Nguyen

Since I left home to be on my own, my Christmas seasons have been full of things related to work. I always had to squeeze in the shopping and the bare minimum of decorating around work demands. Last year, for the first time, I was free of all these concerns. I couldn't believe how much extra time I had on my hands.

Well, my husband says that a decade of pent up need to make cookies, decorate, and generally be merry came out at once in a whirlwind. I had my niece and sons at home the week before Christmas, and we did everything that a kid could dream up—baked cookies, made cakes and gingerbread houses, wrapped homemade



Christmas Joy Bellpull

presents, made candies, decorated with more greens than could fit in our car, and generally had a fabulous time. The best part of all was when we decided to have a white Christmas even though it wasn't cold enough to snow. We spent an entire day making paper snowflakes and hung them from the curtain rods all over the house. They fluttered whenever the heat went on and looked just like they were falling.

Having very young children in the house really brings Christmas into a new light for me. There is excitement and delights in the smallest of things. I so enjoyed the "lightness" of last year's Christmas—I was just like the children and truly seeing it for the first time as a joyous and fun occasion that was all about the experience and not about getting things done. That spirit is represented on my Christmas ornament this year—lighthearted and celebrating the wonder of the first snow as a child would see it—an opportunity to make a snowman versus picking up a shovel.

Thistle Threads
6 Upland Road West
Arlington, MA 02474
e-mail: *thistlethreads@comcast.net*
Web site: www.thistle-threads.com

(Photo is on page 17. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

LET IT SNOW

Designed by Tricia Wilson Nguyen of Thistle Threads

Kreinik® Silk Mori®

■	8050	black
◊	5093	royal blue, lt.
	2066	pumpkin, dk.
	1117	Christmas red, vy. dk.

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

.	3231	white
/	3231	white (half cross stitch)

Fabric: One package #MNM1CC 2006 Kugels 20-count sewing cards from Tokens and Trifles™
Stitch count: 54H x 41W
Design size: $2^{3}/_{4}$" x 2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one square, using one strand of floss or of very fine braid and a #28 tapestry needle or #10 beading needle.

Work half cross stitch over one square, using one strand of very fine braid.

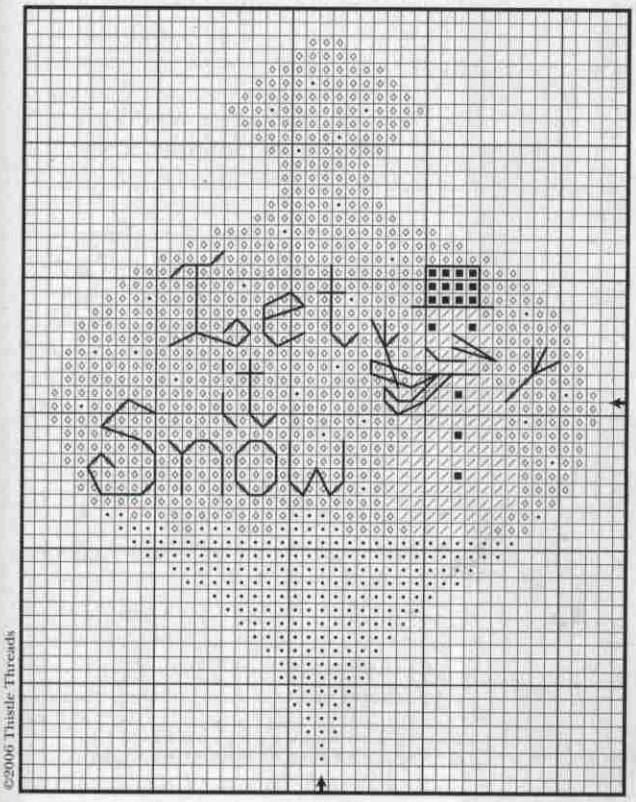
Backstitch over one square, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch instructions:

1117	lettering, scarf
8050	hat, arms, mouth
2066	nose

Finishing instructions: Personalize blank card as desired, using a Pigma or calligraphy pen, or running card through an ink-jet printer.

Place cards with wrong sides together, aligning edges. Beginning at top of cards and leaving a 3" tail, lace cards together through border perforations, using a running stitch and three strands 1117. Bury tails between cards and trim. Twisted-cording hanger was made using 1117. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34.



©2006 Thistle Threads

Let It Snow

Trail Creek Farm

Susan Ebright

Marshmallow Cookies

12 oz. chocolate chips
3 Tbsp. butter
1 egg, beaten
Colored marshmallows to taste
Nuts to taste
Powdered sugar

In a medium saucepan over medium heat on stovetop, melt chocolate chips and butter. Cool slightly. Stir in egg, marshmallows, and nuts. Shape dough into logs and roll in powdered sugar on waxed paper. Chill and slice. Enjoy!

STOCKING

Designed by Susan Ebright of Trail Creek Farm

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

✳	2136	Caribbean
♥	2264	garnet
.	2219	whiskey
X	1232	palomino
■	1304	onyx
○	2278	hibiscus

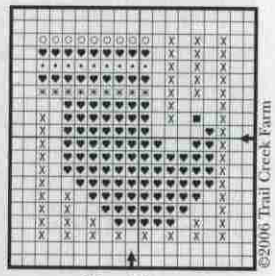
Fabric: Prefinished 32-count linen pillow ornament from Trail Creek Farm
Stitch count: 16H x 15W
Design size: 1" x 1"

Instructions: Remove stuffed insert from pillow. Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Replace stuffed pillow insert.

(Photo is on page 23.)

Trail Creek Farm
1355 15th Road
Lyons, KS 67554
e-mail: *susan@trailcreekfarm.com*
Web site: *www.trailcreekfarm.com*



©2006 Trail Creek Farm

Stocking

Twisted Oaks Designs

Judith Tuttle

This year, I reached a milestone in my life. I officially became a senior citizen as I celebrated my 65th birthday. When I was little, there were years between one Christmas and the next; and not too long ago, it took a full 12 months, 365 days to get from December 25 to December 25. Now, it seems to take only six months. I haven't figured this out yet. Whatever the reason for time hurrying by, the one thing that hasn't changed is the joy I have spending the holiday with my family and the warmth and love we have for each other. No matter where you or your loved ones are this Christmas, I wish you all a joyous and safe holiday season.

No-Bake Chocolate Raspberry Squares

1 (3.4-oz.) box instant chocolate pudding mix
1 (8-oz.) container frozen non-dairy whipped topping, thawed
1 (14.4-oz.) box chocolate graham crackers
1 c. red raspberry jam
½ pt. fresh raspberries (for garnish)

Prepare pudding as directed on box. Fold in whipped topping. Line the bottom of a 9" x 13" pan with graham crackers. Top with ½ of jam. Cover jam with ½ of pudding mixture then add another layer of crackers, jam and pudding. Arrange raspberry garnish on last layer of pudding mixture. Refrigerate for at least an hour. Cut into squares and serve.

EDGAR ELF

Designed by Judith Tuttle of Twisted Oaks Designs

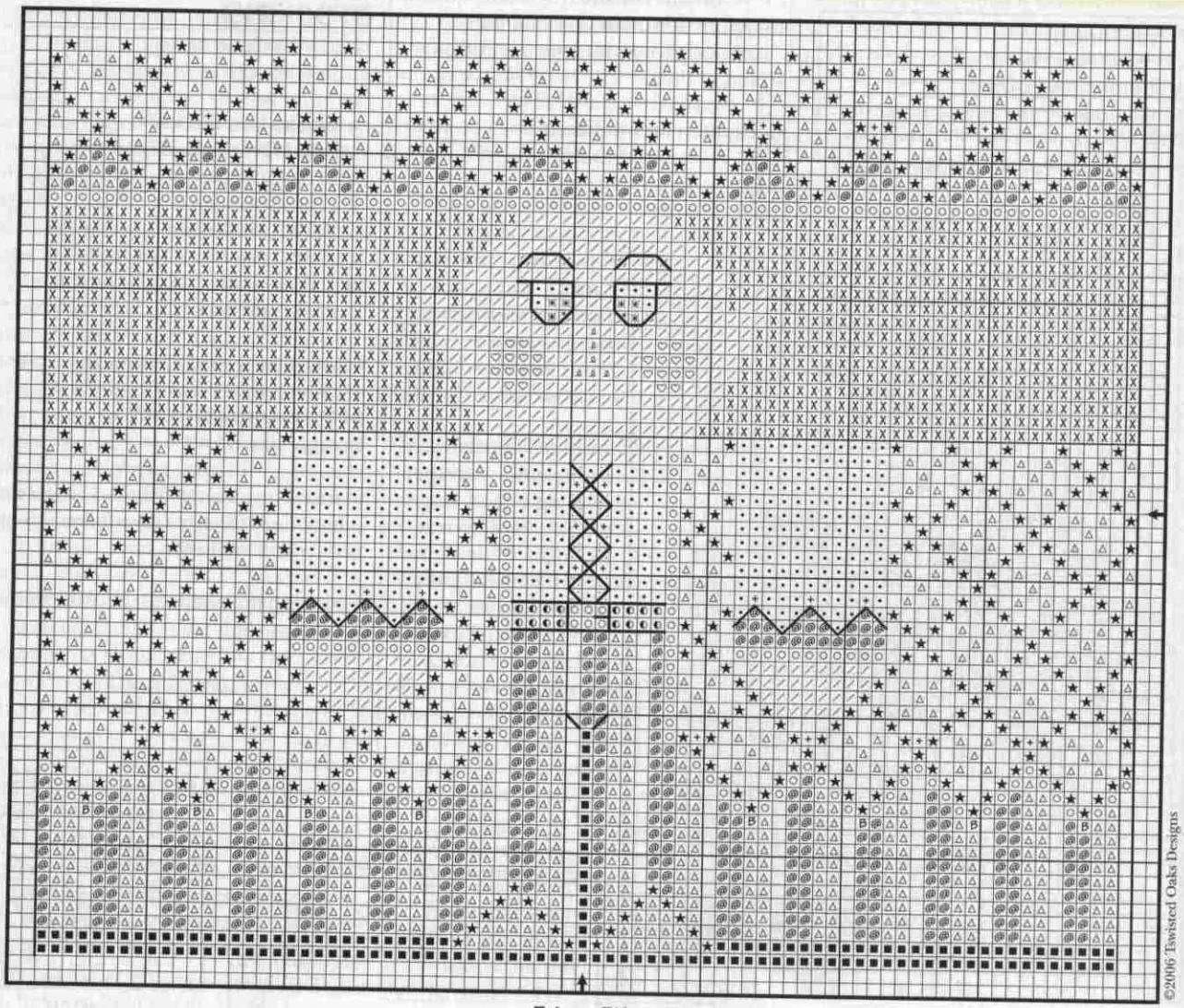
DMC®	Anchor®	
■ 310	403	black
◐ 433	358	brown, med.
✳ 519	1038	sky blue
@ 699	923	green
★ 803	148	baby blue, ul. vy. dk.
△ 906	256	parrot green, med.
♡ 3326	36	rose, lt.
♀ 3773	1008	desert sand, med.
⁄ 3774	778	desert sand, vy. lt.
• B5200	1	snow white
X [433	358	brown, med.
[W68 RG Wisper		dark tan

Rainbow Gallery Petite Braid

○ PB02 gold

DMC® Coton Perlé #5

321 red



©2006 Twisted Oaks Designs

Edgar Elf

Mill Hill Seed Beads #11

+	00557	old gold

Crafts Etc!

B 6mm gold jingle bell (8)

Fabric: 10" x 12" piece 28-count Christmas red Meran from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 66H x 79W
Design size: $4^{3}/_{4}$" x $5^{5}/_{8}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or braid. When two colors are bracketed together, use two strands of the first color and one strand of the second. (**NOTE:** Do not fluff Wisper until assembly is complete.)

Work backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Work backstitch over four threads, using strand of coton perlé.

Work diagonal straight stitch where heavy lines appear on shirt front and cuffs of sleeves, using two strands PB02.

Attach beads, using one strand of coordinating floss and a cross stitch.

Attach jingle bells, using one strand PB02.

Backstitch instructions:

310	403	belt, eyes, eyebrows
321		vertical edges of design

Finishing materials and instructions:

Two 2" x 2"pieces cardboard, cut using Template A
4" x 4" piece 28-count Christmas red Zweigart® Meran, cut using Template B
4" x 4" piece 28-count black Zweigart® Lugana®, cut using Template B
12" piece red satin ribbon
One gold pony bead
One cardboard toilet-tissue core
$^{1}/_{2}$ cup Poly-Pellets® or rice, sealed in a small zip-top plastic bag (to weight bottom of ornament)
Plastic grocery bag
One 8" x 11" piece card stock
White copy paper (optional)
Tape
Metal yarn needle

Using one strand sewing thread, sew a running stitch $^{1}/_{2}$" from edge of each fabric circle, leaving a 3" tail at each end.

Place fabric circles with tail-sides down. Center one piece of cardboard over one fabric circle; gently pull thread tails to gather seam allowances on the opposite side of cardboard. Fabric should fit snugly over cardboard; adjust if necessary. Tie off thread tails to secure. Repeat with remaining fabric circle.

With yarn needle, poke two holes $^{1}/_{4}$" apart in center of red-covered cardboard piece. From back side, thread ribbon up through one hole and back through other hole, leaving a 3" hanger. Knot against wrong side and trim ends. Fit pony bead over loop and snug against red fabric piece.

Trim right and left side of stitched design to within $^{1}/_{2}$" of stitching. Finger press seam allowance to wrong side along backstitched lines; baste seam allowance to back of piece.

(**NOTE:** Before attaching stitched piece to toilet-paper core, check size and adjust if necessary. If piece is taller than core, wrap core with card stock, trimmed to proper height, and tape card stock in place. If stitched piece is too loose around core, add layers of copy paper until backstitched edges on sides meet comfortably. Tape copy paper in place.)

Template A

Wrap stitched piece around core, right-side out, and align edges. Blind stitch sides together, using one strand DMC® 321 Coton Perlé #5.

Trim excess fabric at top and bottom of design to 1" from stitching. Tuck seam allowances into core. Place red cap with ribbon at head end of design and blind stitch in place. (**NOTE:** No fabric should be visible between top of stitched design and cap.) Insert plastic grocery bag inside core, followed by sealed bag of Poly-Pellets or rice. Blind stitch black-covered cardboard to bottom of ornament.

Twisted Oaks Designs
624 Cottonwood Drive
Moore, OK 73160-8322
e-mail: *twistedoaksdesigns@cox.net*
Web site: www.twistedoaksdesigns.com

Template B

(Photo is on page 23. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

REPEAT PERFORMANCE
Dazzle and Delight with the Latest Designs by Lois Caron

Repeat Performance is a stunning collection of four related designs that can be needlepointed on #18 or #13 canvas. In the stitched models shown, the threads used are the CARON Collection's elegant variegated threads — Watercolours, Waterlilies and Impressions. This design collection is offered in an 18 page FULL COLOR instruction booklet. And like all of the CARON Collection's instructions they are extremely well illustrated and easy to follow. Repeat Performance is offered through your local needlepoint retailer along with our nearly endless selection of hand-dyed threads. We also offer handpainted canvases and other design booklets and kits. So visit your local shop to feast your eyes on our sensational offerings. Take a tour of our web site, too, to get inspired by our amazing array of FREE patterns, all the online classes, the designer spotlights, feature stories, and so much more, all at: www.caron-net.com.

visit us at: http://www.caron-net.com
55 old south avenue, stratford, ct 06615
phone: 203 381-9999 - fax: 203 381-9003

the CARON collection

Ursula Michael Designs

Ursula Michael

Over the past few years, a new holiday memory has been growing one ornament at a time. Our editor, Lorna Reeves, has been asking cross-stitch designers if they would like to participate in the annual *Just Cross Stitch* Ornaments Issue for many years. I was delighted to design and stitch my first ornament, find a wonderful recipe to share and look into my past to find a special memory. Every year, there comes a new challenge with a new ornament. As a fulltime needlework designer, most of my designs are sold to publications and manufacturers to be presented in books, magazines or kits. I really don't get to keep many models for myself. However, these little ornaments have all been carefully tucked into a special box and placed on my Christmas tree every year. And so, my memories continue....

Chocolate-Almond Cookies

1 c. butter
1 c. sugar
1 egg
1/2 tsp. almond extract
2 c. all-purpose flour
1/2 c. natural unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1/8 tsp. salt
1 c. mini chocolate chips
Sugar
Slivered almonds (for garnish)

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a mixing bowl, beat butter, sugar, egg, and almond extract until fluffy. In a separate large bowl, combine flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add gradually to butter mixture, mixing until dough is smooth. Stir in chocolate chips. Shape dough into 1" balls, roll in sugar and place 2" apart on a cookie sheet. Press a few almonds into the top of each ball.

Bake for 10 minutes, or until set. Cool completely.

2006 SNOWMAN

Designed by Ursula Michael of Ursula Michael Designs

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
♡	353	8	peach
○	726	295	topaz, lt.
X	906	256	parrot green, med.
#	947	330	burnt orange
♀	3325	129	baby blue, lt.
▲	3845	1089	bright turquoise, med.
.	blanc	2	white

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

☆	045	confetti gold

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 14-count opalescent/white metallic Aida from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 55H x 34W
Design size: 4" x 2 1/2"

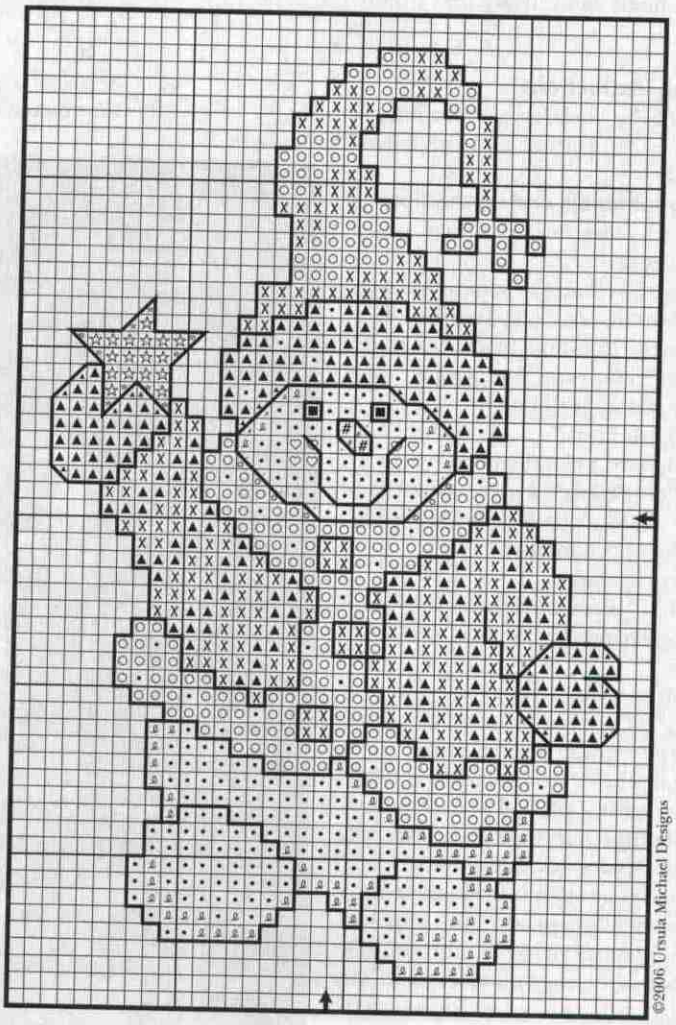
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand 310/403.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Trim was purchased.

(Photo is on page 16.)

Ursula Michael Designs
31 Grey Gull Road
Jamestown, RI 02835
e-mail: *ursula@ursulamichael.com*
Web site: www.ursulamichael.com



2006 Snowman

Val's Stuff

Valerie Danish

Christmas is a time for sharing, and I love to make this bread to share with friends and neighbors.

Happy holidays!

Gift of the Magi Bread

½ c. butter or margarine, soften
1 c. sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
3 small ripe bananas, mashed
2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 (11-oz.) can Mandarin oranges, drained
1 c. flaked coconut
1 c. semisweet chocolate chips
⅔ c. pecans, divided
½ c. chopped maraschino cherries
½ c. chopped dates

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease two 9" x 5" x 3" loaf pans; set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar with an electric mixer on medium. Beat in eggs and vanilla; add bananas.

In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda, and salt. Add flour mixture to butter mixture, and stir just until moistened. Stir in oranges, coconut, chocolate chips, ½ c. pecans, cherries, and dates.

Pour into prepared pans and sprinke remaining pecans over top of dough. Bake for 50–55 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Cool for 10 minutes in pan, then remove from pan.

Val's Stuff
106 Cobblestone Hills
O'Fallon, IL 62269
e-mail: *valsstuff@wisperhome.com*
Website:
members.papadocs.com/valsstuff/

BE MERRY

Designed by Valerie Danish of Val's Stuff

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

•	4125	snowflake
@	1339	Bordeaux
♀	2226	carrot
■	2103	peacoat
♥	2265	strawberry fields

The Thread Gatherer Silk 'n Colors

☆	180	Belvedere gardens

Just Another Button Company™

•	3314s	small golden star

Fabric: 5" x 5" piece 25-count moss green Lugana® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 61H x 59W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 2 3/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. (**NOTE:** Complete each cross stitch individually before proceeding to maximize color variation of overdyed floss.)

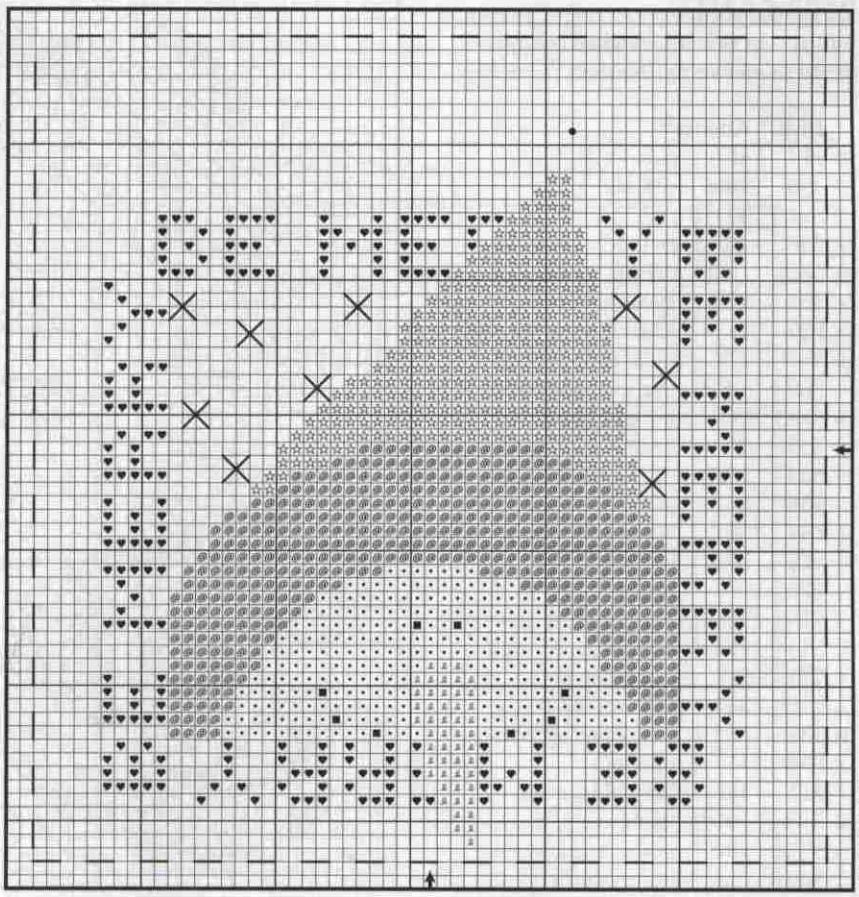
Cross stitch over two threads where X appears for snowflakes, using two strands 4125.

Finishing instructions: Cut two 5" squares from dark red felt.

Trim stitched piece to 14 threads from dashed line on chart. Center stitched piece on one felt square, right-side up, and pin in place. Using one strand 1339 and a running stitch over two threads, join stitched piece to felt where indicated by dashed line on chart. Remove pins. Pull five fabric threads from all sides of stitched square to form fringed edge.

Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim was purchased. If desired, attach one Just Another Button Company™ nh1022 button to base of hanger.

(Photo is on page 17.)



Be Merry

©2006 Val's Stuff

The Vermillion Stitchery

Donna Vermillion Giampa

One of my favorite memories happened several years ago when I created ornaments for my family to adorn their Christmas trees. My favorites were simple Christmas angels.

These were special to me because I used peach and pale blue satins my mother-in-law had given me. They were from her youthful days of making lingerie back in Connecticut! At the time I made these ornaments, this fabric was probably a good 30 or 40 years old. These little angels had painted faces of soft knit fabric and crochet-cotton hair. They were the oddest angels my family had ever seen. But, you never know what might become a family heirloom!

2006 SANTA

Designed by Donna Vermillion Giampa of The Vermillion Stitchery

DMC®	Anchor®	
♥ 814	45	garnet, dk.
@ 498	1005	red, dk.
X 321	47	red
≠ 666	46	red, bt.
△ 3801	1098	melon, vy. dk.
◤ 367	216	pistachio green, dk.
✕ 320	215	pistachio green, med.
♭ 368	214	pistachio green, lt.
~ 369	1043	pistachio green, vy. lt.
★ 3345	268	hunter green, dk.
◆ 3346	267	hunter green
¢ 3347	266	yellow-green, med.
– 3348	264	yellow-green, lt.
« 644	391	beige-gray, med.
ш 822	390	beige-gray, lt.
• blanc	2	white
? 775	128	baby blue, vy. lt.
○ 3756	1037	baby blue, ul. vy. lt.
+ 727	293	topaz, vy. lt.
∞ 745	300	pale yellow, lt.
■ 939	152	navy blue, vy. dk.
▲ 336	150	navy blue
# 311	148	navy blue, med.
⧗ 518	1039	Wedgwood, lt.
¶ 3772	1007	desert sand, vy. dk.
3 3064	883	desert sand
△ 3773	1008	desert sand, med.
@ 758	9575	terra-cotta, vy. lt.
/ 754	1012	peach, lt.
☾ 948	1011	peach, vy. lt.
✳ 3712	1023	salmon, med.
♡ 760	1022	salmon
• 839	1086	beige-brown, dk.
B 840	1084	beige-brown, med.
◐ 841	1082	beige-brown, lt.
bs 902	897	garnet, vy. dk.
bs 319	1044	pistachio green, vy. dk.
bs 935	861	avocado green, dk.
bs 3787	904	brown-gray, dk.
bs 632	936	desert sand, ul. vy. dk.
bs 938	381	coffee brown, ul. dk.

DMC® Metallic Embroidery Floss

☆ 5282 gold

Backstitch instructions:

5282		candle flames and rays
319	1044	holly leaves, date
935	861	mistletoe leaves
3787	904	hair, beard, moustache, fur trim on hat
311	148	blue part of eye (vertical lines only)
632	936	bottom of eyes, lines under eyes, nose, mouth
938	381	tops of eyes, pipe
902	897	remainder of backstitch

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count dirty Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 56H x 47W
Design size: 4" x 3 3/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Hanger and bow were made using 1/8"-wide red satin ribbon.

(Photo is on page 28.)

The Vermillion Stitchery
931 Noble Avenue
Lantana, TX 76226
e-mail: *dgiampa@grandecom.net*
Web site: *www.vsccs.com*

2006 Santa

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The Victoria Sampler

Thea Dueck

In Holland, no occasion is complete without fresh flowers; and Christmas is a great time to display all types of flowers, not just poinsettias! When I was young, our living room was always filled with flowers during the entire Christmas season, which lasted from St. Nicholas Feast days starting on December 6th to after the New Year. Pink roses are my favorite flowers to carry a message of happiness and joy during the Christmas season. This year's "Victorian Rose Ornament" is stitched with lovely pink and teal silk flosses on taupe linen and matches the "Victorian Rose Sampler" to be released in September.

Along with displaying candles and flowers, Dutch Speculaas (spice cookies) were a family tradition that we enjoyed in December. Here is a delicious recipe for my favorite Christmas cookies!

Speculaas Dutch Spice Cookies

2 c. all-purpose flour
1 c. unsalted butter, chilled
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. salt
3/4 c. white sugar
3/4 c. yellow sugar
1 Tbsp. Speculaas spices*
5 Tbsp. whole milk
Halved almonds (for decoration)

Sift flour over countertop. Sprinkle with baking powder, salt, and sugar. Thinly slice butter and add to flour mixture. Add milk and knead until dough is firm but malleable. Cover and let rest overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°.

Dust your Speculaas mould with flour. Press the dough into the hollows, cut off excess dough. Shake out onto a dusted countertop and press in almonds to decorate it. Place on greased cookie sheets and bake for 15–20 minutes.

If you do not have a Speculaas mould, roll out dough and cut with cookie cutters, or cut it into squares after baking.

**If unavailable, you can make your own Speculaas spices by combining one part ground cloves, two parts ground nutmeg, four parts ground cinnamon; mix with a pinch of ground coriander, ground cardamom, and ground ginger.*

VICTORIAN ROSE SNOWFLAKE

Designed by Thea Dueck of The Victoria Sampler

Kreinik® Silk Mori®

○ 6074 mauve mist, lt.
♀ 0115 Lenten rose, dk.
X 1096 wood violet, dk.
■ 1119 garnet
· 8000 soft white

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

☆ 002 gold

Au Ver A Soie® Soie d'Alger®

@ 1745 colonial blue, med.
★ 1746 colonial blue, dk.

Au Ver A Soie® Soie Perlée®

blanc white

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

◆ 00553 old rose

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count taupe Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 30H x 30W
Design size: 2 1/4" x 2 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads for stem, using one strand 1746.

Work satin stitch, using one strand of Soie Perlée.

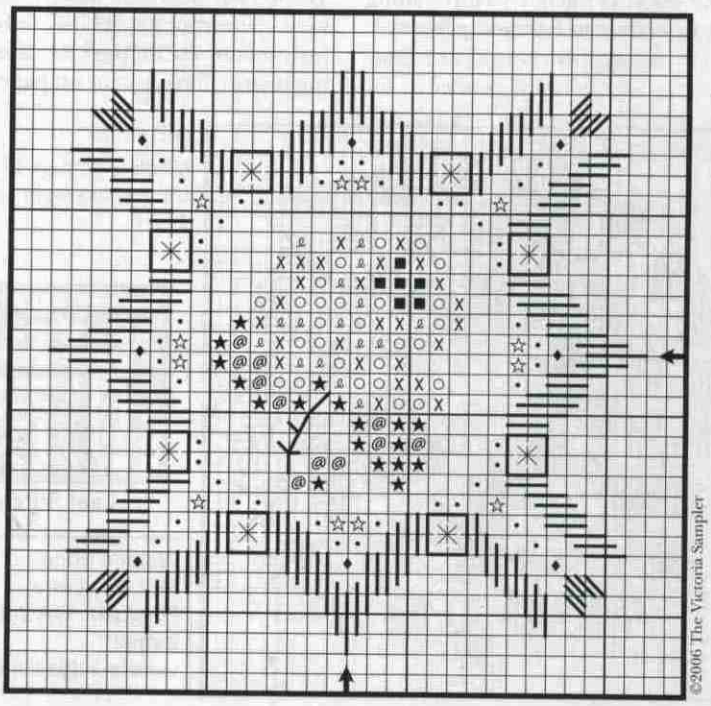
Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads where ✳ appears, using one strand of very fine braid. (**NOTE:** Outline is for stitch placement only and is not to be backstitched.)

Attach beads, using one strand blanc and a cross stitch.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Tassel and twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using 0115. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34. Tassel-making instructions are on page 77.

The Victoria Sampler
8700 Aldous Terrace
Sidney, BC V8L 1L2
Canada
e-mail: *info@victoriasampler.com*
Web site: *www.victoriasampler.com*

(Photo is on page 17. Stitch Illustrations begin on page 25.)



Victorian Rose Snowflake

Water's Edge

Bobbie Marek

My husband, Dave, and I like to try to hide what we get each other for Christmas. A couple years after we were married, he kept telling me that I was going to get a stocking full of coal for Christmas if I wasn't good. I didn't pay him much attention since it was our son's second Christmas, and I was really excited about Santa coming to see him.

Christmas Eve came; and after our son went to bed, Dave and I began putting out all of our son's presents. Then I put Dave's presents out under the tree. Dave sat and watched, and I started wondering what he was up to. I headed up to bed, and he said he'd be right up after shutting out the lights. I figured he was going to put out my presents when I wasn't there. Christmas morning came; and after my son awoke, we went down to see what Santa left for us. As I came down the stairs, there were only two piles of presents and a stocking full of coal. All my son could say was "Mommy bad." Dave waited as my son opened his presents before he finally pulled my gifts from his hiding spot. I still have the stocking full of coal just waiting for the right time to return the favor.

WE WREATH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Designed by Bobbie Marek of Water's Edge

	DMC®	Anchor®	
X	304	19	red, med.
@	815	44	garnet, med.
	814	45	garnet, dk.

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

1276	blue spruce

Kreinik® Blending Filament

085	peacock

Mill Hill Antique Glass Seed Beads

●	00165	Christmas red

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 28-count white opalescent Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 33H x 33W
Design size: $2^{3}/_{8}$" x $2^{3}/_{8}$"

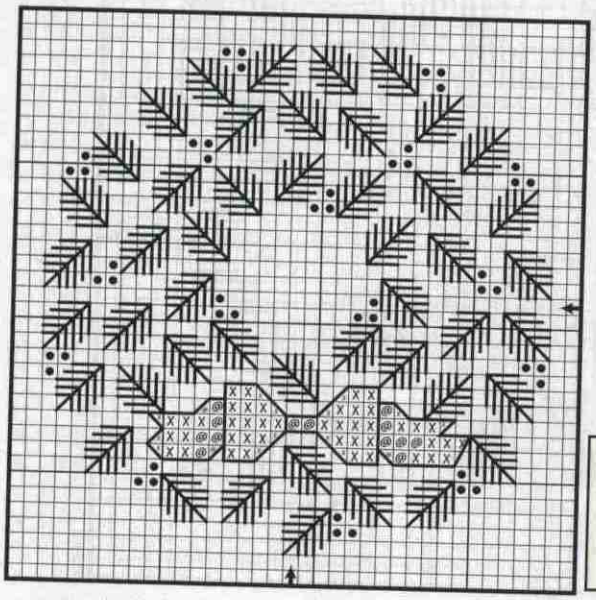
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads for bow, using one strand 814/45.

Work leaf stitch over six threads, using two strands 1276 and one strand of blending filament.

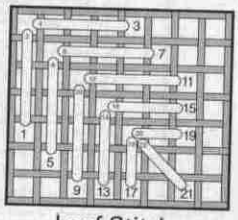
Attach beads, using one strand 304/19 and a cross stitch.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim, hanger, and tassel were made from 304/19. Twisted-cording instructions are on page 34. Tassel-making instructions appear on page 77.



We Wreath You a Merry Christmas

(Photo is on page 11. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)



Leaf Stitch

Water's Edge
1101 Lee Lane
Fincastle, WA 24090
e-mail:
waters_edge@ntelos.net

©2006 Water's Edge

Wee Works

Wendy White

There is nothing quite like going Christmas caroling on a clear December night with a full moon and snowflakes in the air. When I was ten years old, our church youth choir met at the rectory and climbed into a horse-drawn wagon mounded with loose straw, bales of straw, and numerous blankets. With small booklets of carols in hand, our choir director gave us permission to sing as loudly as we wanted but to please try and stay in tune.

Off we went through the streets of our town in western New York, filled with excitement, laughter, and joy. Snuggled under straw and blankets, our enthusiasm kept us warm as we stopped at each house to sing a carol or two before moving on. It was difficult to turn pages with mittened hands, so we sang "Jingle Bells" and "Silent Night" almost endlessly because we knew the words by heart. The "Twelve Days of Christmas" was another popular choice that night and was attempted numerous times. Our night ended at a member's home with all of us gathered near the Christmas tree, rosy cheeked, picking straw from our hair and hats, drinking hot chocolate, and munching on Christmas cookies.

Now when the "Twelve Days of Christmas" plays, I find myself smiling at the memory and looking outside to see if it is a night for caroling!

CHRISTMAS BAUBLE

Designed by Wendy White of Wee Works

	Kreinik® Silk Mori®	
X	2026	buttercup, dk.
•	7012	lightest lead grey
■	1116	Christmas red, dk.

Kreinik® Blending Filament

○	028	citron

Fabric: Three #SM1PP Bon Bon 20-count sewing cards from Tokens and Trifles™
Stitch count: 57H x 31W
Design size: $2^{7}/_{8}$" x $1^{5}/_{8}$"

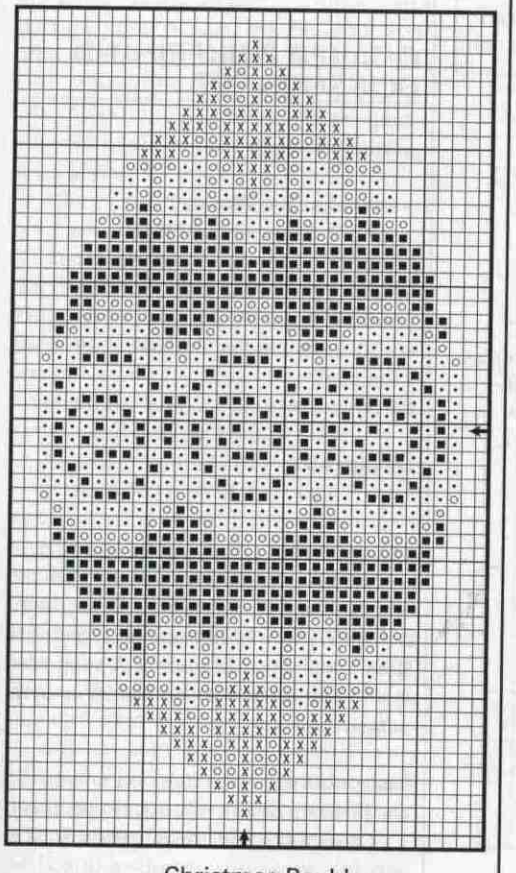
Instructions: Stitch design once on each sewing card. Cross stitch over one square, using one strand of floss or blending filament and a #28 tapestry needle or #10 beading needle.

Finishing materials and instructions:

Thread a length of Kreinik® 003 red 1/8" ribbon onto needle. Place two cards wrong sides together. Beginning at top of cards and referring to illustration, begin lacing together. When bottom point of card is reached, open cards slightly and align third card between first two. Lace cards two and three together, and then cards three and one together. Tie tails of ribbon into bows at bottom of ornament. Hanger was made using an additional length of ribbon.

(Photo is on page 27.)

Wee Works
1 Greenfield Drive
Sandwich, MA 02563
e-mail: *weworks@mindspring.com*



Christmas Bauble

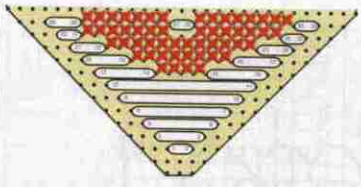
Whiskey Creek Ink

Karon Killian

Winters are usually cold and snowy here in Wisconsin, and many of my childhood memories revolve around the fun times had in the snow during the holiday season. But, no matter how much fun can be had outside, it's always exciting to come in from the cold and see a majestic Christmas tree decorated in sparkling lights and brightly colored ornaments. I hope that the metallic fibers and gold background in this ornament bring a bright joy to your tree.

Merry Christmas!

Whiskey Creek Ink
RR1 Box 93
Marengo, WI 54855
e-mail: *whiskeycreek@baysat.net*
Web site: www.whiskeycreekink.com



Satin Stitch

(Photo is on page 11. Additional stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

CHRISTMAS TREE

Designed by Karon Killian
of Whiskey Creek Ink

Kreinik® Fine Braid #8
X 3503 red flamenco

Kreinik® 1/16" Ribbon
3508 rhumba green

Fabric: Two 3" x 3" pieces 14-count metallic gold perforated paper from Mill Hill
Stitch count: 34H x 34W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

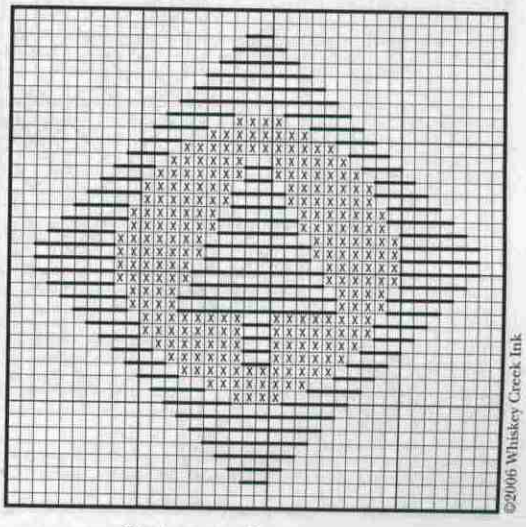
Instructions: Trim rough edges away from both pieces of paper to prevent fraying of fibers.

On one piece of paper, cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of fine braid. (**NOTE:** Do not carry threads across the opening for tree in center of paper.)

Place pieces of paper together with right sides facing out. Make a running stitch near cut edge of paper to hold pieces together.

Starting at bottom of design, using a 80" length of 1/16" ribbon, and leaving a 4" tail, work satin stitch where heavy lines appear on chart. Refer to stitch illustration at left for order of stitches. Work satin stitch, incorporating tree area, until top of ornament is reached. Create a 1" loop from ribbon and then thread ribbon through perforated holes at top edge of stitched design to secure.

Finishing instructions: Thread a decorative bead onto thread tail at bottom of ornament and knot to secure. Fold hanger and tail away from edge of ornament and trim paper to within one row of stitching.



Christmas Tree

©2006 Wee Works

©2006 Whiskey Creek Ink

Wild Heart Designs

Pamela Ellis

Some of my fondest memories of Christmas were during the time my husband served in the military and we lived all over the world. Since we didn't have our families close by, we ended up entertaining ourselves. When the children were little, we would make homemade ornaments from salt dough, hand paint them, and then decorate our tree. On Christmas Eve morning after we had breakfast, we had an annual tradition of playing Monopoly; this would always end up being a marathon game in which we would take breaks for meals, and it seemed the game always lasted 2–3 days! On Christmas Eve night, we had another tradition of opening one gift that evening. As the children grew older, they would taunt me into letting them open more than one. It didn't take much to convince me to unwrap additional gifts. My husband would always laugh at the end because all gifts that were under the tree ended up being opened. As much as he tried to have us stop, I think he actually enjoyed it as well. Now that my children are grown and have children of their own, they make me promise that I won't have the grandkids experience the same fun! I always have a sparkle in my eye as we unwrap that one gift on Christmas Eve!

SNOWFLAKE HEART

Designed by Pamela Ellis
of Wild Heart Designs

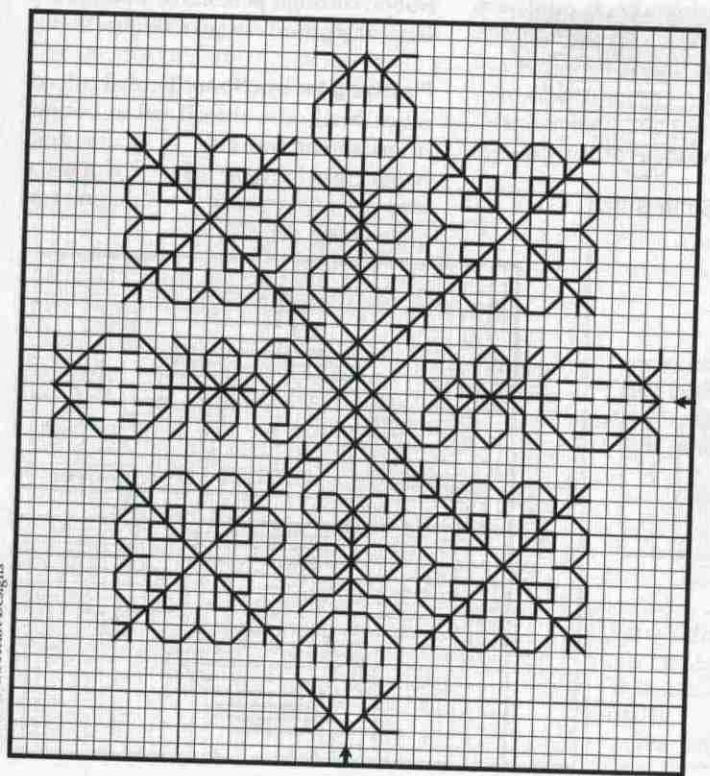
Gloriana Threads Silk Floss
X 104 ecru

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 32-count Fitzgerald red linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 40H x 36W
Design size: $2^1/_2$" x $2^1/_2$"

Instructions: Work double-running stitch, using one strand 104.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-finishing instructions on page 34. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using 104.

Wild Heart Designs
168 Grandview Road
Springfield, PA 19064
e-mail: *pam@wild-heartdesigns.com*
Web site: *www.wild-heartdesigns.com*



Snowflake Heart

(Photo is on page 27. Stitch illustrations begin on page 117.)

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With My Needle

Ellen Chester

This issue concludes our series of needlework accessory Christmas ornaments. This year, we present a pinkeep and scissors fob. Hang them on your tree, and later use them in your stitching basket. Enjoy!

Ambrosia Salad

$^1/_2$ c. orange juice
4 medium oranges, peeled and sectioned
1 medium banana, peeled and sliced
1 (8-oz.) can pineapple chunks, undrained
1 (10-oz.) jar maraschino cherries
$^1/_2$ c. flaked coconut
$^1/_2$ c. chopped pecans

In a large bowl, combine orange juice and fruit, stirring gently. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Add coconut and pecans just before serving.

QUAKER PINKEEP AND SCISSORS FOB

Designed by Ellen Chester
of With My Needle

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss
■ 3860 crimson (two skeins)

Fabric: Four $5^1/_2$" x $5^1/_2$" pieces 32-count light mocha Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 46H x 50W (pinkeep)
20H x 20W (fob)
Design size: $1^1/_2$" x $1^5/_8$" (pinkeep)
$1^1/_4$" x $1^1/_4$" (fob)

(**NOTE:** This is the fourth and fifth of a series of ornaments. If you plan on stitching the entire series, please buy a 31" x 15" piece of linen and 12 skeins of floss, so pieces will match. A suggested layout for linen can be found at *www.withmyneedle.com.*)

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread for pinkeep, using one strand of floss.

Cross stitch over two threads for scissors fob, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads for all outer borders, using two strands of floss.

Repeat backstitched border of pinkeep front on separate piece of linen for pinkeep back. Personalize, if desired.

Finishing instructions:

Pinkeep. Mark a 1/2" allowance from backstitches on all four sides of pinkeep pieces; trim away excess linen.

Cut a piece of acid-free mat board to fit just inside backstitched border of each linen piece. For each piece, fold excess linen to back along backstitches and press; insert mat board under folds and lace seam allowances together across back of mat board.

Cut three 9/16" x 7/16" pieces of wool felt; align edges and tack together. Cut a 8" x 3/4" piece of fabric for pinkeep sides. Fold and press fabric squarely, 1/8" from one end. Align fabric along one longer edge of felt assembly with folded end at center of felt edge and with remainder of fabric extending past corner of felt. Fold fabric over top and bottom of felt, distributing fabric evenly on top and bottom. Using a sharp needle and strong sewing thread, attach one long edge of fabric to top of felt assembly with small whipstitches, working toward corner. Fold fabric around corner, align along next side, and continue attaching fabric to top of felt. Continue until starting point is reached. Squarely fold other end fabric to align with first folded end. Trim excess fabric 1/8" from fold, and sew folded ends together. Attach other edge of fabric to bottom of felt, leaving sides about 1/4" thick.

Align pinkeep front with felt assembly. Using ladder stitches, attach edge of pinkeep front to top edge of felt assembly: start 1/8" from top-center edge of pinkeep, using sewing thread that matches 3860, and work toward nearest corner. Continue around pinkeep edges, leaving a 1/4" opening at top. Attach pinkeep back in same manner as for pinkeep front.

Make two lengths of twisted cording from two 20" strands of 3860 each.* Insert one end of one length into opening on one side of pinkeep, and attach cording to pinkeep sides with coordinating sewing thread. When beginning point is reached, insert remaining end of twisted cording into opening and sew opening closed. Repeat process for remaining pinkeep side and cording length.

If desired, make a looped bow, using a 12" piece of 7mm ribbon. Insert a long decorative pin into bow; pin into pinkeep side. Insert glass-head pins in sides of pinkeep.

Scissors Fob. Mark a 1/4" allowance from backstitches; trim away excess linen. Finger-press seam allowance to back along backstitches.

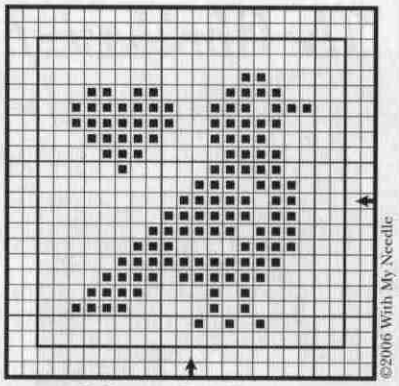
Cut two pieces of batting to fit inside backstitches. Place one piece of batting under folded seams for front; baste to hold in place. Repeat for back.

Align front and back. Using one strand of 3860 and beginning 1/8" from top-center of front and back, lace sides together through backstitches. Work to nearest corner, down side, and across bottom; insert a curtain weight or coin and continue lacing remaining sides together, leaving a 1/4" opening at top center. Remove basting threads.

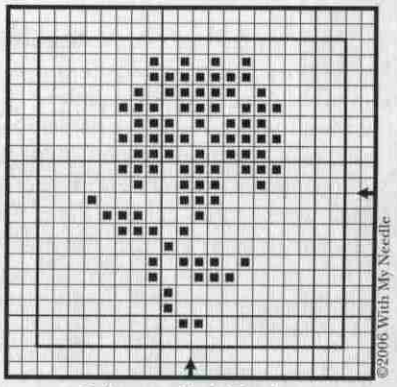
Make twisted cording from three 42" lengths of 3860. Insert one end of cording into opening and attach cording to edges. When beginning point is reached, insert remaining end of cording into opening, leaving remaining twisted cording as a hanger. Sew opening closed. If desired, make two small bows from a 6" length of ribbon and add to top of fob on each side.

Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 34.

(Photo is on page 18.)

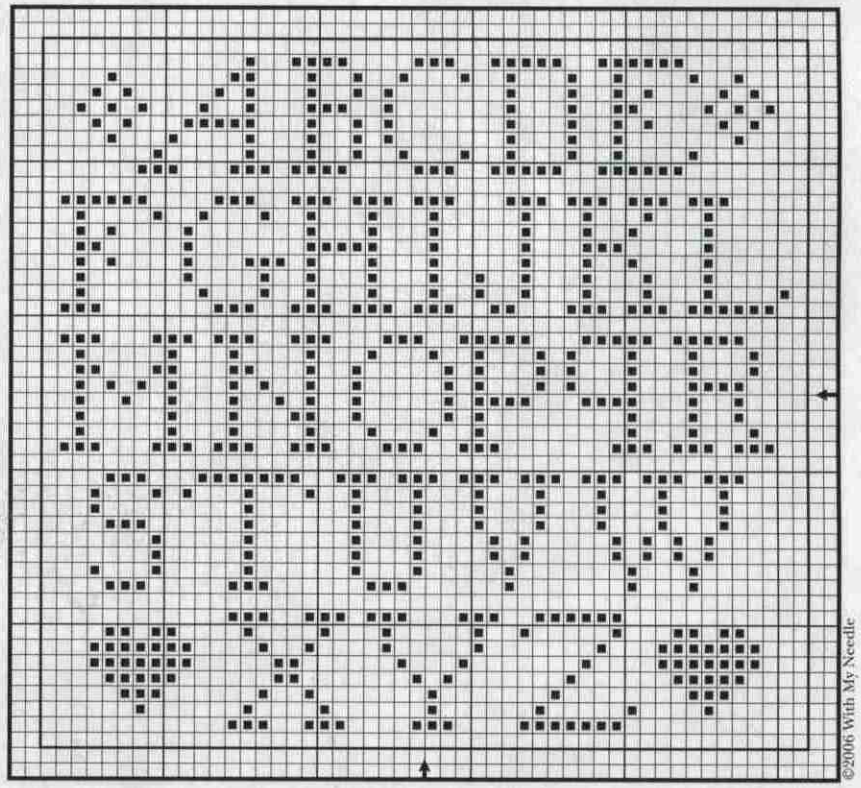


Scissors Fob Front



Scissors Fob Back

With My Needle
7122 Larchwood Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45241
e-mail: *examplar@withmyneedle.com*
Web site: *www.withmyneedle.com*



Quaker Scissors Pinkeep

The Workbasket

Candy Scott and Mary Olsen

This is my favorite Christmas cookie. My memories of it go back to my earliest days and my Swedish grandma, who was a wonderful cook. Her miracle bars always came out perfectly, but mine are often lumpy on top, which is why I often substitute chocolate bark for the melted chocolate chips with butter. My mother, 84, still makes this recipe every year; and if I only have time for one cookie recipe, this is the one I choose.

Miracle Bars

1½ c. butter, divided
10 Tbsp. natural unsweetened cocoa powder
½ c. sugar
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 egg
4 c. graham cracker crumbs
1 c. finely chopped walnuts
1½ c. flaked coconut
4 Tbsp. instant vanilla pudding
6 Tbsp. milk
Green or red food coloring
2½ c. powdered sugar
2 Tbsp. melted butter
1½ c. chocolate chips (May substitute chocolate bark for easier spreading.)

Grease a 9" x 13" baking pan. Set aside.

In a double boiler over boiling water, combine 1 c. butter, cocoa powder, sugar, vanilla extract, and egg. Stir until butter is melted and ingredients are well mixed. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, combine graham-cracker crumbs, walnuts, and coconut. Combine with chocolate mixture; press into greased pan.

In a separate bowl, combine instant pudding mix, milk, ½ c. butter, food coloring, and powdered sugar. Mix well; spread on top of chocolate crumb mixture.

In a small saucepan over medium heat on stovetop, combine melted butter and chocolate chips and spread on top of icing. Cut into bars and refrigerate.

QUAKER REINDEER

Designed by Mary Olson and Candy Scott of The Workbasket

Caron Collection Waterlilies®
■ 137 copper

Charland Designs, Inc. Charm
jingle bell

Bucilla® 4mm Pure Silk Ribbon
629 dark green

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 35-count iced cappuccino linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 67H x 72W
Design size: 3⅞" x 4⅛"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

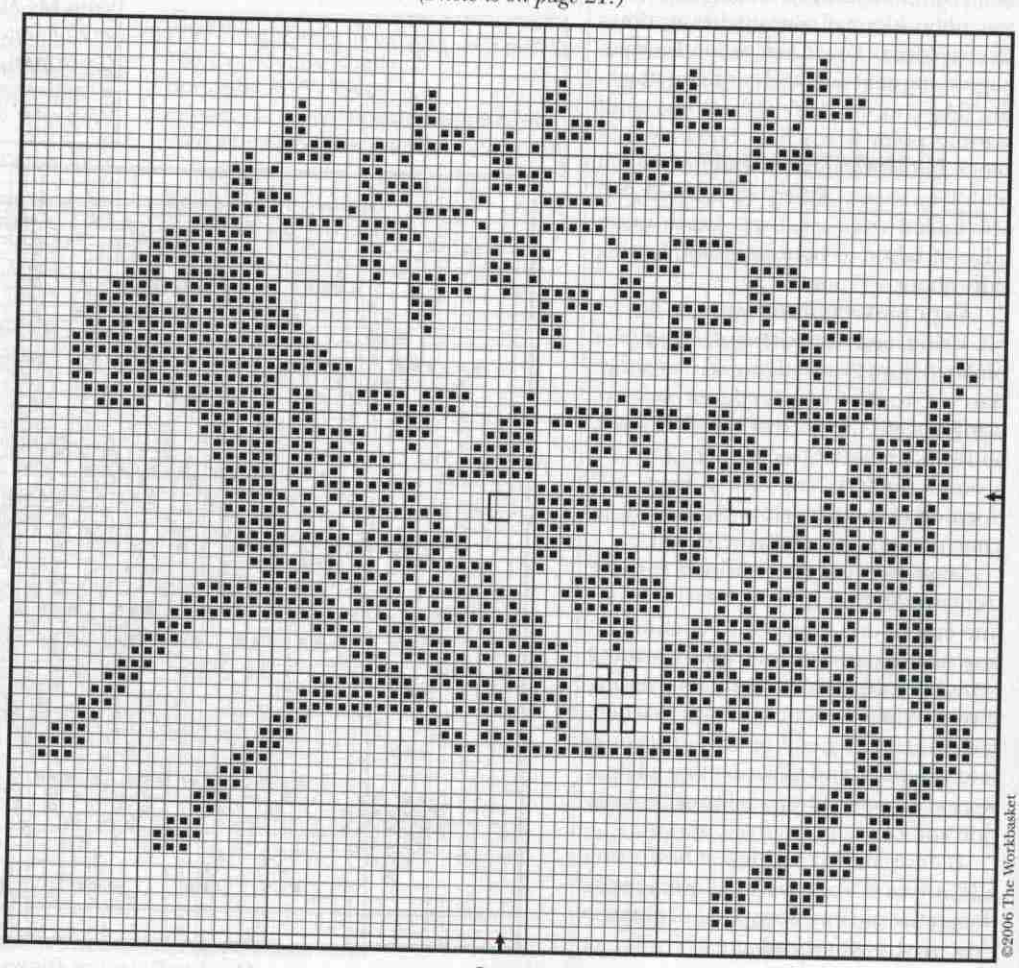
Backstitch over two threads for date and personalization, using one strand 137.

Anchor a length of silk ribbon on back of stitched piece near deer's neck. Referring to photograph on page 21 for placement, make a straight stitch across deer's neck, threading charm onto ribbon.

Finishing instructions: Ornament was finished in the style of a log-cabin quilt block by sewing strips of coordinating fabric to frame stitched piece. Hanger was purchased.

The Workbasket
PMB #389
303 South Broadway, Suite B
Denver, CO 80209
e-mail: *candy@theworkbasket.net*
Web site: *www.theworkbasket.net*

(Photo is on page 21.)



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Quaker Reindeer